



Fears of huge death toll in atom disaster

A Kiev source says 2,000 people died in the nuclear plant disaster at Chernobyl. Anger is mounting in the Nordic countries at Moscow's failure to warn of spreading radiation - page 6.

The Soviet Union has ended its news blackout, but says that only two people died in the incident. Poland has set up a civil-military crisis team to deal with a radioactive cloud.

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Soviet Union yesterday appealed to Western countries for help in dealing with the disaster at its nuclear power station in the Ukraine, where a fire was raging out of control and thousands of families were reported to have been evacuated from a wide surrounding area.

One Russian diplomat described the accident at the Chernobyl plant as "the worst ever in the world" of its kind, and according to a United Press International report quoting sources in Kiev, about 2,000 people may have been killed.

Radiation from the disaster area was still being recorded in Scandinavian countries, and West German officials expressed concern that easterly winds might bring contamination towards Germany.

Britain is not at risk, according to experts here. The US said last night that it was "ready, willing and able" to give Russia medical and technical help, but had not been asked for assistance.

The Soviet Union did, however, seek advice from nuclear power experts in Sweden and West Germany on how to control the fire burning at Chernobyl several days after the accident.

Authorities in Moscow have released few details about the cause or extent of the damage, but some Western scientists believe a meltdown of nuclear fuel - the ultimate disaster - had occurred.

An 18-mile radius area around the station was being evacuated, according to some reports, with fleets of buses and other vehicles commandeered to take tens of thousands of people to safety.

A resident in Kiev, about 60 miles away, who was said to have close contacts with hospitals and rescue services, said between 10,000 and 15,000 people had been evacuated from Pripyat, the city built close to the plant to house its labour force.

"Eighty people died immediately and some 2,000 people died on the way to hospitals," the source said. "The whole October Hospital in Kiev is packed with people who suffer from radiation sickness."

"The dead were not buried in ordinary cemeteries but in the village of Pigorov, where details of the nature of the accident but said it "resulted in the destruction of part of the structural elements of the building housing the reactor, its damage, and a certain leak of radioactive substances".

The statement said the accident affected what it called the fourth power generating unit but said the other three units were in order, although they were shut down as a precautionary step.

"Priority measures have been taken to deal with the effects of the accident. The inhabitants of the station's settlement (Pripyat) and three nearby populated localities have been evacuated."

Pripyat has a population of between 25,000 and 45,000, according to various reports. Some health experts in Britain who specialise in the hazards of nuclear radiation believe many people living near Chernobyl could die within weeks or months from the effects of very high doses of radiation.

Other victims could contract cancer in five or more years' time, and some mothers were at risk of giving birth to babies with genetic disorders or mental handicaps.

Although the Soviet Government was seeking advice from Swedish, West German and British nuclear safety experts on how to deal with the fire at the plant, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is the only organization with such experience.

A fire broke out at Windscale, now known as Sellafield, in 1957, but was insignificant in comparison with the Chernobyl outbreak.

The statement gave few settlement and three nearby populated localities have been evacuated."

The Council of Ministers statement gave no indication of the number of injuries.

Unofficial estimates here put those involved in the evacuation at several thousand.

The Soviet statement, which followed a day of prevarication by the Foreign Ministry which refused to answer any queries from Western diplomats, said: "According to preliminary data, the accident took place in one

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Poland sets up crisis team

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland has set up a top-level civil-military crisis team to deal with the threat of a radioactive cloud, apparently covering scores of miles, that has gusted into north-eastern Poland.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said yesterday that there were contacts between the Soviet and Polish Governments and between scientific experts of the two countries to gauge the scope of the problem.

In Poland, the team headed by Mr Zbigniew Szalajda, Deputy Prime Minister, met yesterday morning to draw up emergency plans.

Members of the team include the ministers of health and agriculture, a general, a scientist and the head of the Polish atomic energy authority.

Hospitals in the area have been put on standby alert and food reserves have been mobilized.

The Polish Ministry of Health instructed Poles not to buy or drink milk that comes from the north-east of Poland.

Although most cows in the area are eating dried, stored fodder, some may be grazing on pasture land, and this could prove to be a high risk, especially for bottle-fed babies.

Every vegetable should be thoroughly washed and medicines would be dispensed to reduce the effects of radioactivity, the ministry said.

In a separate communiqué, the ministerial crisis team said that treatment facilities were available, but stressed that the radiation cloud did not represent a real danger, mainly because it was still moving.

Had the cloud remained static, radioactivity would prove to be a real problem.

Mr Urban did not disclose any details about the density of the cloud which has been blown 310 miles from the Chernobyl power station but said that it had triggered about 200 pager counters run by the civil and military authorities.

That suggests the cloud covers a large area probably taking in Svalbi in the top north-eastern corner, part of the Baltic coast and cities like Olsztyn and Białystok.

The overall strategy is to play down the crisis. So far no restrictions have been put on food sales though the measure seems to be under review.

It is an area of lakes and forests which usually has a significant rainfall at this time of year.

First visitors from the north-east yesterday reported that the news of the cloud was beginning to spread by word of mouth and people were beginning to buy in canned food.

Until yesterday, there had been no press reports about the Soviet disaster, but by yesterday evening, it had become the lead news item on radio and television.

Last journey of Duchess of Windsor



Eight Welsh Guards carry the coffin of the Duchess of Windsor at St George's Chapel.

Simple funeral shorn of pomp

By Alan Hamilton

The bright English spring sun shone on the last journey of Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, yesterday afternoon, as it had too little shone on her life.

Her funeral service was simple and shorn of pomp, her burial intensely private, witnessed by only four members of the Royal family and eight old friends and retainers from half a century of exile. It was the way she and the Duke had planned it together.

She did not so much come home, for little of her life was in England; she came to join her husband, who had lain under a spreading plane tree in the Royal burial ground at Frogmore since 1972, and whose death abandoned the Duchess to a desolate widowhood.

Her body, which had lain in the Albert Memorial Chapel of St George's in Windsor Castle since its arrival from Paris on Sunday, was carried by a bearer party of Welsh Guards, of which the Duke was once Colonel-in-Chief, early yesterday afternoon to be placed on its purple draped catafalque in the choir of St George's. On top of it lay the Queen's wreath of white and orange lilies, almost the only flowers present.

The guard was taken up by the Military Knights of Windsor, their scarlet tunics a rare ray of colour in a stark scene.

Over 100 mourners filed into their places in the nave. The French influence was strong; British ambassadors to Paris past and present; friends from the continental social circle of which the Windsors were so long the fulcrum; old acquaintances like Lady Diana Mosley and Lady Alexandra Metcalfe, widow of the Duke's best man and the sole surviving witness of their wedding.

The French women wore black chapeaux and veils. Baron Guy de Rothschild said: "We were invited, and it was the least we could do to come. She was very popular in France."

Beyond the choir screen the honoured guests overlooked the English oak coffin with its silver paste inscribed simply: "Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, 1896-1986"

Royal guests, all in mourning black, were led by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Beside them sat the Queen Mother, Princess Anne, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, the Duchess of Kent, Princess Alexandra and Mr Angus Ogilvy, and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. All sat hidden by the choir

Continued on page 16, col 7

Anarchy claimed in prison as dispute escalates

By Peter Evans and Craig Seton

Industrial action by more than 18,000 prison officers is set to disrupt jails throughout the country as claims were made of "total anarchy" and riot conditions inside Gloucester prison yesterday.

The governor suspended officers taking part in protest action over manning levels.

Members of the Prison Officers' Association in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are being instructed from today to take industrial action described as extensive, highly disruptive and on a continuing basis.

POA officials forecast last night that the action would be more serious than in 1980-81 when troops were called in to man an incomplete prison and two camps were opened to take overspill prisoners.

At Gloucester, more than 20 prisoners staging a rooftop protest over the officers' lock-out hurled bricks and tiles at senior staff and demanded that they be allowed to return to their posts.

Police equipped with riot gear stood by outside the 20 foot high walls as pieces of tile crashed into the street and on to parked cars. Prisoners yelled their demand that they would stay on the roof until the officers were allowed to return.

About 30 senior staff and assistant governors from other prisons were last night believed to be running the prison and more are expected to be drafted in today.

They were helping Mr Nicholas Wall, the governor, to keep control of the 300 inmates but prison officers who

ringed the walls with the police said that prisoners were totally unsupervised inside and gave warning that the tense situation could escalate into violence.

Some of the assistant governors brought in from prisons in the South-west and Midlands had to face the anger and abuse of prison officers when they were forced to leave the jail to unload a vegetable lorry outside the main gate. Its driver had refused to go inside when POA members told him that their dispute was official.

Last night Mr Ian Dunbar, the regional director of the Prison Service for the South-west, who was called into Gloucester to make a report for Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, and to advise Mr Wall on the best way to cope, said that the prison was secure. He said there was no danger to the public, but conceded that the situation inside was "tense and fragile."

He said the 23 prisoners who had clambered on to the roof had been reduced to 13 by tonight.

Mr Byron Hughes, the POA branch chairman, was in urgent contact last night with his national executive to report on the deteriorating situation. He told The Times: "There has been a state of total anarchy inside the prison. Prisoners were wandering the grounds unsupervised, some tried to break into the ladders and others got on to the roof. We are still standing by outside to make sure no one escapes, but the situation is impossible."

Continued on page 2, col 8

Business forces tax changes

By David Smith

The Treasury yesterday announced significant tax changes in response to criticism of last month's Budget. It also changed the rules to allow companies to finance themselves without relying on bank borrowing.

Intense lobbying by leading British companies, including ICI and Reuters, forced the Treasury to tone down its controversial tax on American Depository Receipts - British shares denominated in dollars and traded in New York.

Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the rate of the proposed tax was being cut from 5 to 1.5 per cent.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, welcomed the changes.

Share prices, partly in anticipation of the Treasury's announcements, were strong yesterday. The Financial Times 30-share index rose by 25.9 points to 1,391.2.

ADR tax cut, page 17

Russians end news blackout

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet authorities last night ended a news blackout on details of the nuclear accident at the Chernobyl plant when an announcement from the Council of Ministers admitted that two people had been killed in the mishap and an unspecified number of people evacuated.

The announcement, read in sombre tones on national television, was deliberately not placed at the top of the news which is broadcast throughout the country.

It acknowledged for the first time that the accident had destroyed part of the structural elements of the building housing the reactor.

The statement, released simultaneously by Tass, was the first official news of the accident issued in 24 hours. It said that a Government commission, including the heads of ministries, leading scientists and other specialists, was working in the region.

"The radiation situation at the electric power station and adjacent territory has now been stabilized and the necessary medical aid is being given to those affected," it said.

It added: "The inhabitants of the nuclear power station's settlement and three nearby populated localities have been evacuated."

The Council of Ministers statement gave no indication of the number of injuries.

Unofficial estimates here put those involved in the evacuation at several thousand.

The Soviet statement, which followed a day of prevarication by the Foreign Ministry which refused to answer any queries from Western diplomats, said: "According to preliminary data, the accident took place in one

Continued on page 16, col 1

Tomorrow

Voice of Russia



Profile of Leonid Zamyatin, former head of the Tass news agency, who is the new Soviet ambassador to London

Portfolio Gold

Three readers shared the daily Times Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 yesterday - details, page 3. Today there is another £4,000 to be won. Portfolio Gold list, page 20; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, etc. and their respective page numbers.

Failure to alert criticized

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The House of Commons united last night to strongly criticize the Soviet Union for failing to immediately notify neighbouring countries of the disaster at its nuclear power plant near Kiev.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs the Swedish and Finnish governments were only informed of the incident after radioactive clouds had reached their countries.

But she reassured them that preliminary tests carried out in Britain following the massive nuclear leak, had failed to detect any increase in the level of radioactivity in the UK.

Together with other Cabinet ministers, the Prime Minister went out of her way to stress the "absolutely superb" safety record of Britain's nuclear industry. "We have a very high standard of safety and design, construction operation and maintenance of nuclear

plant in the UK," she said. Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, has officially asked Moscow to make available full details of the accident.

In a statement to the Commons, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said a disturbing feature of the incident was the way in which knowledge of it had not come from Moscow but from monitoring by neighbouring countries.

"I hope the Soviet Union will make available information about this incident because it is very valuable for the whole of the nuclear industry and the world to know as much as possible."

He confirmed that about 100 British students were in Minsk, about 60 miles north of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, when the accident occurred. Embassy officials in Moscow were investigating.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority and the National Radiological Protection Board were carrying out substantial monitoring of radioactivity levels. The Ministry of Agriculture would be checking soil samples on the east coast and in north Wales as well as testing milk samples all this week.

Mr Baker said the graphite moderated reactor responsible for the nuclear leak was of a unique design and there were none like it in the West.

British experts had rejected the reactor as unstable in the 1950s.

Mr P W Botha, the South African President, made a direct televised appeal to blacks last night to support his efforts for negotiated peace in the country.

He said: "I am aware of your problems and I am willing to deal with them in a positive way. But the Government and I cannot do this alone. We need to discuss solutions with black leaders in a peaceful way. I have extended my hand of friendship to all those in our country, black, white, brown, who are committed to the peaceful solution of our problems."

Clearly referring to his proposed national statutory council, Mr Botha said: "I appeal to all reasonable South Africans to support this process." Legislation would be introduced shortly to make it possible.

Botha urges blacks to back peace initiative

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

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Future power stations could go back to coal

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) may be forced to accelerate plans to introduce a new breed of coal-burning power stations because of renewed fears over the safety of nuclear power stations after Monday's accident in the Soviet Union.

Scientists and engineers at the CEGB research centre near Gloucester, have been working secretly on a new type of coal-burning station for months. The work was started because the CEGB believes that, with demand for electricity growing by an average 4 per cent a year, it will need new stations in operation by the mid-1990s.

The industry would prefer to build about six nuclear stations but has accepted that planning consent delays may make it necessary to build coal stations.

Now, with public opinion moving more firmly against nuclear power, the CEGB fears that the planning inspector's forthcoming report on the proposed Sizewell B nuclear station in Suffolk will be delayed. Like the Russian station involved in Monday's accident, Sizewell B would be a pressurized water-cooled design.

The Department of Energy had planned to rule on the Sizewell report by the end of this year, but with nuclear power likely to emerge as a big election issue it is expected to postpone the report until the safety issues have been reconsidered.

Any government-imposed delay on the construction of the Sizewell power station will be a bitter personal blow to Lord Marshall, the CEGB's chairman.

Laing & Cruickshank Corporate Finance advertisement with logo and contact information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page number 3 and various small notices.

Alliance chiefs set to impose spending limit on manifesto

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Leaders of the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance are seeking cuts in their policy commitments in an attempt to impose a top annual limit of £10,000 million on their projected increased expenditure during the lifetime of a five-year Parliament.

A confidential letter sent to Alliance MPs by the parties' two economic spokesmen, Mr Ian Wigglesworth, SDP MP for Stockton South, and Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, says: "There are going to be severe public expenditure restraints for some years to come and a number of cherished hopes may have to be delayed."

"The truth is, unless we are prepared to argue for substantially higher taxation, which we do not believe to be feasible, we must be prepared to establish strict priorities for higher spending, to consider phasing in the more expensive changes, to identify areas where savings can be made, and to seek new solutions to problems."

It is understood that Alliance leaders have been urged into tough action by the Government's damaging charge that Labour commitments could cost as much as £24,000 million - vehemently denied by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

The Alliance letter, agreed by a joint leadership policy meeting, says: "The Alliance should plan for a maximum 2 per cent per annum increase in total public expenditure over an initial five-year period, compared with the present Government's experience of a 1.5 per cent increase since 1983-84."

"Extra spending to create jobs and revive industry and commerce should have the highest priority, with other policy areas taking second place except to the extent that they fulfil these economic objectives."

An annex to the letter says that existing commitments include real improvements in health and personal social services, education and training, housing, transport, inner cities, job creation, industry and overseas aid.

A spending standstill would be imposed on agriculture, law and order, defence and environmental services.

Commons anger over Cornish tin mines

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

MPs of all parties rounded on the Government in the Commons yesterday for failing to give aid to save the few remaining Cornish tin mines.

If help is not forthcoming before the end of the week it is feared that planned mine closures will be unstoppable.

Mr David Harris, Conservative MP for St Ives, predicted that the pumps would be turned off at Geevor mine this weekend, which would mean it could not be reopened, because of flooding.

Rio Tinto Zinc has announced that it will close its three mines with the loss of 1,000 jobs.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, repeatedly told MPs that an application for help from Geevor tin mines was being considered, but there was none from RTZ.

The Cornish tin industry, which once boasted 600 mines, has been hit by the fall in the world price of tin from £9,500 a tonne to below £4,000 in one year.

Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, predicted that prices would rise again.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Tiverton, and a member of the trade and industry select committee, said it was better to "take a risk" over the future price of tin than suffer unemployment.

Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Cornwall South East, said that the delay in offering aid was causing frustration and annoyance.

Parliament, page 4



Tin miners yesterday waiting to start their shift down the Wheal Jane (Photograph: John Voos).

Subsidy the only hope for tin miners

By Tim Jones

A thousand Cornish tin miners were this week confronted with the prospect that they may be finished for ever. Not unexpected, the news was nevertheless devastating.

Tin mining is hard and brutal: a face worker is old at 45, sapped by working 1,400 feet below ground in humid heat. The men were shaken by the announcement from Rio Tinto Zinc that it was to close its three mines in August unless "no practical solution is forthcoming."

That means a huge subsidy from the Government to tide the industry over the crisis caused by the default of the International Tin Council in October last year and the subsequent failure of the 22 member governments to agree

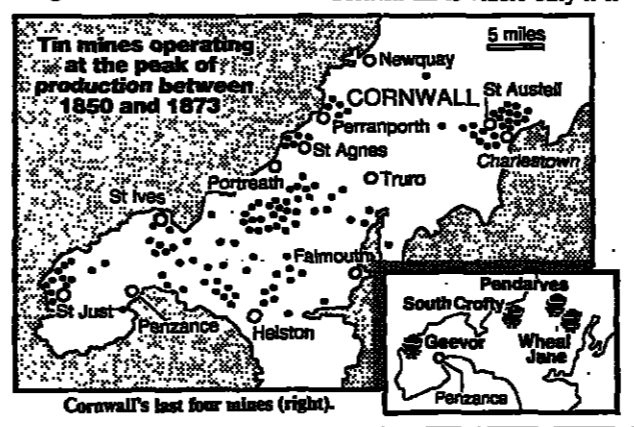
a common cause of action. Since then, a Commons select committee on trade and industry has accused the Government of "secrecy and incompetence" over its handling of the crisis and recommended financial support for the industry.

The price of tin has plummeted from £9,500 a tonne to about £3,900 a tonne on the international spot market. Cornwall tin is viable only if it

sells for about £7,000 a tonne. Miners who work in Wheal Jane, South Crofty and Wheal Penryn are convinced that if they can receive government help of about £50 million they can ride the storm.

Mr Peter Gatley, aged 35, married with two children, said yesterday at the rock face: "We all have commitments which match our earnings and if the mines close there is little hope of any other job."

Another miner, Mr Jeff Parsons, who will travel to London today to plead the case, said: "Considering tin is a prime natural resource which can meet half of Britain's needs it seems crazy to close us down for short-term financial considerations. All we are asking for is help to tide us over this bad patch."



Tories stay calm in by-election

Conservatives in Derbyshire West maintained a stoical calm yesterday after the latest opinion poll suggested that its once large lead for the May 8 by-election contest was being whittled down by opposition parties.

Mr Patrick McLoughlin, the Conservative candidate, took the press on a peaceful ride along the Cromford canal on a horse-drawn barge, and declared that he would not be panicked by the opinion polls.

He was articulate towards the former Conservative MP, Mr Matthew Parris, whose resignation caused the by-election, who said on Monday that it was even possible to imagine a Labour candidate winning the seat.

Mr McLoughlin, aged 28, a former miner, who suffered the jibes of his colleagues when he worked throughout the miners' strike, appeared well-equipped to cope with any crisis.

He said: "We will go out calmly and coolly to get the best vote we can."

But the BBC Newsnight poll, which gave the Conservatives 37 per cent, the Alliance 32 per cent and Labour 30 per cent - it received only 17 per cent in 1983 - has electrified the campaign.

General election: M Parris (C) 29,695; V Bingham (All) 14,370; J March (Lab) 9,060. C maj: 15,325.

Gangs replace poachers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The traditional local poacher with his "one for the pot" has been largely replaced by well-equipped criminal gangs.

Mr Leonard Soper, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, told a conference in London yesterday of the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports.

The rewards of poaching on a large scale were likely to be considerable, whether for game, deer or fish, he said.

If thwarted or unsuccessful in poaching they would turn to other criminal activity. There were large, isolated properties in the countryside attractive to burglars.

"The modern poacher is therefore not necessarily, perhaps unlikely to be, a country-

man. He will have achieved some knowledge of the countryside and sufficient of the countryman's skills to enable him to catch or kill his quarry."

"But he will certainly not have a countryman's sense of balance and proportion and feeling for the countryside. He will certainly not be considering the well-being of those who live in the countryside, and he will not be considering the well-being of, or the question of cruelty to, his quarry."

The modern poacher was not alone, was prepared to travel long distances and was well equipped. Salmon poachers in Gloucestershire were

often equipped with Land Rovers, inflatable boats and radios.

They knew the law and the extent of police powers and because they were likely to be members of a criminal fraternity, they were likely to resort to violence, sometimes extreme violence, if there was a prospect of detection.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, told the conference that the new arrest powers under the Public Order Bill provided the police with an effective means of dealing with hunt saboteurs and ensuring that the disruptions caused by "peace convoys" was kept within tight controls.

Mayors at Domesday service

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A total of 400 mayors and Lord Mayors from throughout Britain joined Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at Westminster Abbey yesterday to celebrate the nine-hundredth anniversary of the Domesday Book.

It was one of the biggest ever gatherings of local authority leaders. The mayors, who had special permission from the Lord Mayor of Westminster to wear their red robes and ceremonial chains in the Abbey, were invited to the service by the Domesday Commission.

Their presence emphasized the importance of William the Conqueror's book as a foundation stone for Britain's national and local government.

The Queen Mother, who later attended the Duchess of Windsor's funeral at Windsor, wore a black hat and coat.

Several hundred dignitaries crowded into the Abbey, parts of which are older than the Domesday Book of 1086.

Among them were Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, and Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Mr Geoffrey Martin, the Keeper of Public Records told them: "There is nothing in our history quite like the Domesday Book."

In his address he praised its "confident professionalism" and thoroughness. A facsimile of the book was carried through the Abbey during the service.

Euro-MPs immunity opposed

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A dispute broke out at Westminster last night over a House of Lords report approving proposals to give Euro-MPs widespread immunity from criminal prosecution.

The peers say that members of the European Parliament should be immune from arrest or criminal prosecution in respect of any acts except crimes of violence.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, and secretary of the Conservative European Reform Group, said: "This is an outrageous proposal and I hope the British Government will reject it."

The only important immunity enjoyed by Westminster MPs is the freedom of speech in proceedings in Parliament.

The report comes after a request by members of the European Parliament to increase their privileges and immunities. Strong reservations over the proposals have been expressed by the Foreign Office, the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The peers say the European Parliament lacks the powers possessed by Westminster to protect itself and its members against interference by means of a commitment.

But they insist the planned immunity should not apply to the arrest of a Euro-MP committing, about to commit or having just committed an offence.

Dispute in prison escalates

Continued from page 1

He claimed that the breakdown in relations with the Governor came about because Mr Wall had mistimed a plan involving Assistant Governors and other senior members of management to take control of the main gate and keys to the prison and lock out prison officers late on Monday night.

He said the day shift of 70 prison officers had been told they could not enter the building unless they agreed to the Governor's terms and signed "some sort of declaration of loyalty."

The 125-strong branch of the POA at Gloucester had been incensed by the Governor's threats, he said, and had passed a vote of no confidence in him. They now wanted him removed.

The prison officers at Gloucester deny that their protest is over the amount of money they will lose because of the new manning levels the governor wants imposed to meet Home Office proposals.

Inside the prison, Mr Dunbar told a press conference that on Monday night the governor had taken steps "to control the gate of this prison because staff refused to accept his lawful orders". His action had been to secure access to and from the prison.

Mr Dunbar told *The Times* that he was keen for talks between the Governor and the prison officers to go ahead, but first the warders had to accept the governor's authority.

Study into choice of jury trial

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The reason defendants choose to be tried at the crown courts by jury rather than by magistrates is to be studied in a £75,000 research project launched by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The research, to be undertaken at York University, is aimed at finding ways to cut the workload at crown courts which has substantially increased in recent years.

It also comes at a time when the Government proposes in its next criminal justice Bill to remove the right to trial by jury in the case of three offences to ease the crown court workload.

Defendants and their lawyers will be interviewed about their reasons for choice.

Moderate realist at union's helm

By Craig Seton

Mr Bill Jordan, who was confirmed yesterday as the new president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Britain's second largest union, is regarded by the labour movement as a right winger and by those who know him well as a realist and a moderate.

In the ballot to find a successor to Mr Terence Duffy, Mr Jordan polled 119,220 votes and Mr John Tocher, the left-wing candidate, 95,511.

At a press conference in Birmingham yesterday Mr Jordan, aged 50, the union's divisional organizer in the Midlands for 10 years, was keen to play down his reputation as a "moderate."

He said: "I may be regarded as a moderate, but I am avaricious for jobs and greedy

Man in the news

for success that will bring wealth and a fair share of that wealth for working people."

He said that as an engineer, he took a practical view of the modern world. "I think we have got to get away from some of the ideology of the past. I want success for our industries. I want it for our union and I want it in jobs."

"Our outlook has to be dominated by logic first - if an employer will not listen to logic, then and only then you have to resort to muscle."

Mr Jordan, married with three grown-up daughters and about to become a grandfather for the fourth time, hailed the result of the ballot for the presidency as a "great victory."

No one who had witnessed the cut back and devastation of manufacturing industry could underestimate the dan-

Local elections

Age that had been done. AUEW workers were prepared to work for the success of industry.

Mr John Allen, district secretary of the AUEW in Birmingham, who knows Mr Jordan well, said: "He is quite different from Terry Duffy, who was an instinctive fellow, whereas Bill will make sure he is well armed and well briefed before he challenges an employer on the facts."

"He is a very deep researcher and a detailed negotiator."

Mr Jordan takes up his new post on May 7. He intends to leave Birmingham and move to London with his wife, Jane.

Mr Jordan is a passionate football follower, but his team, Birmingham City, has been relegated to the second division. He said that his unstinting support showed his commitment to the underdog.



Mr Jordan wants success for workers and industry

Challenge over nurse home sale

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday challenged the Government to issue guidance on the sale of nurses' accommodation.

The college has said that the health service's ability to recruit staff and to respond to terrorist incidents or disasters was being threatened by plans to sell off nurses' homes.

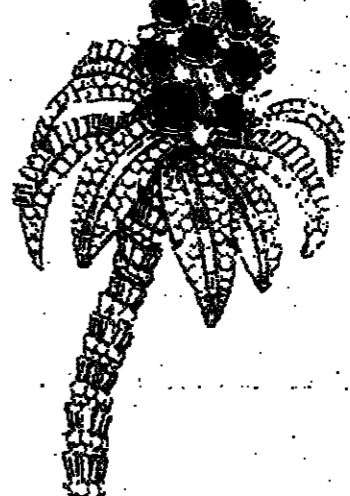
Last week, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, gave an undertaking that no nurse would be made homeless by the sale of "surplus" NHS accommodation, which ministers believe could raise £170 million.

But student nurses at the RCN's annual congress in Blackpool said hundreds of colleagues had received letters giving them notice to quit.

Mr Trevor Clay, RCN general secretary, said the college would take legal action if a health authority attempted to evict nurses. Mr Fowler's statement last week that authorities should retain accommodation "as needed" for student nurses and other staff in areas such as inner cities had confused officials.

Doctors must warn young girls seeking the contraceptive pill that they were risking cervical cancer by having sexual intercourse at an early age. Mrs Rose Dixon, a cancer nurse in Wirral, told the congress.

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Business stress is seen as important cause of accidents on roads

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Stress among business executives is emerging as a serious cause of road accidents, a conference of the British Medical Association was told yesterday. Harassed managers and salesmen drive faster than they should as they worry about business problems, psychologists and insurance experts told the meeting in London. Employees of computer companies, where competition was fierce, were particularly vulnerable. On average a fleet of 100 cars in a computer company had 100 accidents a year, compared with 40 accidents per hundred cars in other companies. Companies which made rapid changes of personnel or policy, or expanded their

fleets rapidly were more likely to experience a high accident level, the meeting was told. Drink was often suspected as a contributory factor, particularly among top executives who resort to alcohol when cracking-up. The executive did not need to be over the drink limit to lose road judgement: drinks enjoyed days before could make the driver slip-dash or slow to react. In a Department of Transport survey quoted at the conference, most car drivers involved in accidents were executives. Nearly one-fifth had alcohol within three hours before the crash. About 9 per cent of car and lorry drivers involved in accidents reported being anxious, depressed or confused, and slightly more said they were

preoccupied or distracted. One cause identified by analysts from Hogg Robinson, the insurance brokers, which organized the conference, was lack of sensitivity by managers if they implied superior driving skill on their own part, they antagonized their drivers. One company suffered a sharp increase in accidents when its cars were replaced by vans, which were not liked. Drivers could not identify with them, the conference was assured. Another car fleet suffered because the firm had a policy of no radios, which caused driver resentment. Hogg Robinson's risks management programme included sessions for company drivers on race tracks. But the most important aspect, according to Hogg Robinson, was understanding the drivers' point of view, and helping him to shape his emotions and motivations. Dr Noel Sheehy, of Leeds University, a psychologist advising the Department of Transport on safety research, said the average driver made an error every two miles. Psychological studies showed that accident rates were largely unrelated to the intelligence, personality, or physical fitness.

Hay fever victims face poor summer

By Robin Young

Hay fever sufferers can expect a worse time this summer than they had last year, according to Dr Tom Smith, a general practitioner who has studied the effects of the allergy for five years. Last year, Dr Smith pursued his researches among London taxi drivers, who had to open their windows frequently and travelled from area to area. He found that there were as many sufferers among taxi drivers as among the rest of the population. The symptoms showed no sign of abatement with age. Of 100 drivers who are victims, one quarter had to give up driving for a time. Those using tablets were twice as likely as those using inhal-

ers or injections to suffer from symptoms of drowsiness. Dr Smith said that the best advice to sufferers was to avoid going out before 11.0am or between 4.0pm and 7pm. At the seaside, however, pollen was carried out to sea in the morning and came back with the sea breezes in the evenings. Only the most expensive car air-conditioners would be effective. Dr Smith said that pollen counts were so localized as to be almost useless. Victims would do better paying attention to weather forecasts, bearing in mind that any sunny, warm day was likely to be a miserable one for them.



Peggy, a dog whose exploits are to be the basis of a computer game, with her owner, Charmaine Kerslake, aged nine, of Havant, Hampshire. The Afghan cross bitch twice alerted the family to potentially dangerous fires, once when an electric blanket started smouldering and again when an oil heater went wrong in the garden shed. She thus won a Pet of the Year competition organized by the computer games company, Mikro-Gen, and a £100 prize for her owner. The award was presented yesterday. (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Solicitors call for relaxation of rules

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors would have far greater freedom to attract business, to advertise their services and accept work introduced by contacts such as building societies under wide-ranging reforms to their professional practice rules proposed yesterday. The reforms are outlined in a consultation paper by the Law Society's contingency planning working party which is aimed at enabling solicitors to "project themselves in the new competitive environment".

Solicitors should not do anything in obtaining work "which compromises or impairs clients' freedom of choice, the solicitors' independence, his duty to act in the best interests of the client, his good repute or his proper standard of work," the paper says. But the continuation of the profession as a strong, independent legal profession depends on "economic viability".

Among the proposals are that touting should no longer be specifically prohibited under the practice rules, although solicitors will still be expected to abide by general principles of behaviour that would not permit touting.

The paper also proposes a new practice rule for work to be introduced by institutions to be recognized under the Building Societies Bill to employ solicitors to do conveyancing.

On advertising, a revision of the code is suggested so that any advertising would be allowed unless specifically prohibited.

The proposals are being sent to the profession for consultation and have yet to go before the Law Society's council.

Portofolio Gold

Three regular readers of The Times shared yesterday's daily £4,000 prize in the Portofolio Gold competition.

The personnel manager of a chain of fashion stores, Mrs Antonia Paul, of Wandsworth, south London, said she was absolutely delighted with her win.

Mrs Eleanor Phillips, aged 81, of Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, said she will spend her prize on her family. Mr Percy Hogg, a retired personnel manager, was also pleased by his luck yesterday.

"We have never won anything before. I hope I'm on a winning streak now," Mr Hogg, of Cromer, Norfolk, said.

You will need the new Portofolio Gold card to play the game. If you have any difficulty obtaining one from your newspaper, send an s.a.e. to:

Portofolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Mrs Paul, who is delighted with her win.

Wife 'killed in nightmare'

A weeping husband yesterday relived at the Central Criminal Court a "nightmare" of fighting Japanese soldiers which he claims caused him to strangle his wife. Colin Kemp, aged 34, a father of three, said that he throttled his wife, Ellen, aged 33, to death during a dream in which he was "strangling a

Japanese soldier".

He said he woke to find his wife lying dead across his left arm and "panicked". He told the jury in tears that he tried to wake her and slapped her face. "I couldn't feel a pulse. I just went barney. I had never heard of anybody ever doing anything violent in their sleep before."

Mr Kemp, a sales representative, of Abbot's Walk, Caterham, Surrey, pleads not guilty to the murder of his wife on August 8 last year.

Mr Robin Simpson, QC, for the prosecution, claims that the story of the dream is a lie and that he deliberately killed his wife. The trial continues today.

BBC receives eight awards

By Peter Davalle

Eight of the 11 winners of this year's Television and Radio Industries Club awards, which were presented at the club's annual luncheon yesterday, were BBC programmes or performers. Terry Wogan, named BBC Television Personality of the Year, won his third TRIC award, and the 1984 winner of the Radio Personality of the Year award, John Dunn, won

again this year for his Radio 2 show. Other awards: Television Personality of the Year (IBA), Anne Diamond of TV-am's Good Morning Britain; TV Programme of the Year (IBA), EastEnders (BBC); TV Programme of the Year (IBA), Spitting Image; TV Situation Comedy of the Year, Allo, Allo (BBC); Television Newscaster/Presenter of the Year, Frank Bough (BBC); Best

Science-Based Programme of the Year, Tomorrow's World (BBC); Sports Presenter of the Year, Jimmy Greaves (BBC); Radio Programme of the Year, Capital Radio's Network Chart Show; Television Theme Music of the Year, Simon May and Leslie Osborne for Horizon's Way (BBC); BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour, in its fortieth year, won the club's special award.

Stars to defy Equity's South Africa ruling

By Michael Horsnell

A challenge to the left-wing domination of Equity, the actors' union, over its ban on performances in South Africa was delivered yesterday by a number of stars, led by Mr Derek Bond, the union's former president. A letter to Equity from hundreds of actors, including Peter O'Toole, Dinah Sheridan, Barbara Murray and Dinsdale Landen, rejected the union's right to instruct members on a political issue.

Mr Bond resigned as president four weeks ago, with only two months of his two-year term of office to run, after the union, backed by a majority of only 3,000 of its 32,000 membership who voted on the issue, decided on its South Africa ban.

Mr Bond, who is appearing in The Amorous Prawn in Belfast, told The Times: "This is a statement to council to bring to its attention the stupidity of issuing an instruc-

tion which won't be obeyed by many leading members of Equity. "The union isn't our master, it's our servant. Is it going to tell us we mustn't perform in the United States because of the Libya bombing or Russia because of the Afghanistan invasion? Where does it end?"

"It's not an argument about apartheid but the right of the union to which we have to belong to give us an instruction of this kind. If it stands we shall disobey this instruction. We have pledged ourselves never to play before racially segregated audiences and that is of moral value."

No one was available for comment at Equity's London headquarters.

The union, which has also banned the export of sound and recorded material to South Africa, was yesterday commended for its action by the United Nations special committee against apartheid.

Honour for Roux brothers

The brothers Albert and Michel Roux, proprietors of Le Gavroche restaurant in Mayfair, London, and the Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire, yesterday joined the most renowned chefs of France as recipients of the annual Personnalité de L'Année awards presented by an international jury convened by Pierre Sennegon in France.

Also honoured, and first among English wine experts to win such an award in the 16 years of their presentation, was Mr Michael Broadbent, Master of Wine, director of the wine department at Christie's.

Champagne by design

About 100,000 artist-designed bottles of 1981 Taittinger champagne were offered for sale in London yesterday costing £50 each.

The company decided several years ago to commission artists to design both the bottles and labels for exceptional vintages, which would be sold as collectors' items. The 1981 vintage was designed by the French artist, Arman.

Being The Times average: Australia \$1.25, Belgium 8 Pts 50, Canada 20c, Denmark 10c, France 17c, Finland 10c, Germany 12c, Greece 10c, Hong Kong 10c, India 10c, Italy 10c, Japan 10c, Korea 10c, Luxembourg 10c, Malaysia 10c, Mexico 10c, Monaco 10c, New Zealand 10c, Norway 10c, Pakistan 10c, Portugal 10c, Singapore 10c, Spain 10c, Sweden 10c, Switzerland 10c, Taiwan 10c, Thailand 10c, USA \$1.75, Yugoslavia Din 400.

Fear over hang gliders

By A Staff Reporter

Hang glider enthusiasts are working to reassure other air users that a new way of getting airborne is safe.

Hang glider pilots usually manhandle their wings to the top of a hill to soar from the summit or glide down again, but it is physically tiring and time-consuming.

The British Hang Gliding Association has developed a system of launching hang gliders by tow wire and winch

and this increases flying time and opens the flattest countryside to the sport.

But reports that some gliders have been flown like a kite by the winch crew to heights of 6,000 feet have alarmed helicopter operators and aircraft pilots.

They are unhappy at the prospect of 6,000 feet of virtually invisible piano wire hanging in the air.

Cancer research given £4m boost

By Ronald Faix

Cancer research at two Scottish centres is to receive more than £4 million it was disclosed yesterday.

The Leukaemia Research Fund announced a grant of £2 million to Glasgow University's veterinary school to set up a research unit into human leukaemia viruses.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund said it was also going to spend £400,000 a year on research into more effective and less traumatic treatment of all forms of cancer at the clinical oncology department of the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. That was in addition to the £2 million the fund has already put into the Edinburgh research.

Professor John Smyth, head of the department, said trials using high doses of a drug combination to treat small cell lung cancer, the fastest growing form of the disease, had increased the number of sufferers living for two years or more from 5 per cent to 26 per cent.

Small cell lung cancer accounts for about one third of all lung cancer, 95 per cent of which is believed to be caused by smoking. Professor Smyth said there was an enormous middle area in the treatment of cancer where a cure could not necessarily be offered but where more and more effective treatment could be offered.

The new unit in Glasgow, claimed to be the first of its kind in the world, will continue the work carried out by Professor William Jarrett, head of the department of veterinary pathology and his colleagues. Their research has shown that leukaemia in cats is usually associated with infection by a retro virus an important cause of anaemia and a variety of Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in cats.

Studies in America have shown that the same family of viruses were the main cause of one rare form of human leukaemia and another virus from the same family was a cause of Aids.

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Russians pressed to give full details of nuclear disaster

RADIOACTIVITY

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, reassured the Commons during question time that preliminary measurements had failed to detect any increased radioactivity in the United Kingdom following the reported nuclear power accident in the Ukraine.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a brief statement on the accident, said that a disturbing feature was the way in which knowledge of it had emerged, not from the Soviet Government, but by monitoring in other countries.

He urged the Soviet Government to give a full account of what had happened and the steps that had been taken to bring the incident under control. Present evidence suggested there was no danger to the UK but the situation would continue to be monitored carefully.

He pointed out that the report, not known with any certainty, was that the accident had not been significant casualties. Mrs Thatcher told MPs that there was a duty on countries to report accidents through the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Reaction in the Commons to the Soviet accident was first raised by Mr Gerald Brown (Dulwich, C) who asked: In view of the widespread alarm about reports of leaks from the nuclear installation in the Soviet Union, would she reassure the House and nation that our own safety checks and monitoring system would prevent such an occurrence in the UK?

Mrs Thatcher: We have very high standards of safety, design, construction and maintenance of nuclear plants.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab), former Secretary of State for Energy: As this clearly is a very serious accident in the Soviet Union, would she assure the House and nation that our own safety checks and monitoring system would prevent such an occurrence in the UK?

Mrs Thatcher: We have very high standards of safety, design, construction and maintenance of nuclear plants.

Mr Tony Benn: The Secretary of State for Energy said that the British plutonium reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria has been a major source of concern. Would she assure the House that the plant is safe and that the high standards of our nuclear installations are being maintained?

Mrs Thatcher: He is in a position to know the very high standards of safety we exact in the construction of our nuclear plants and the high standards of our nuclear installations are being maintained.

Mr Alex Fletcher (Edinburgh Central, C) said that there had been a callous and irresponsible failure by the Soviet Government to give the earliest possible warning about the dangers of nuclear fall-out, to say nothing of lack of advice to their own citizens.

Will the Prime Minister take the earliest opportunity to ask the Soviet Union directly and through the European Community and the United Nations?

Mrs Thatcher: I understand the Swedish and Finnish governments were only informed after radioactive clouds had reached their territory. There is a duty, through the International Atomic Energy Agency, to report accidents.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Con):

Nuclear accident

What help and advice were requested of the Atomic Energy Authority in fighting fires raging following the disaster?

Mr Patrick Jenkin (Wansley and Woodford, C), former Secretary of State for the Environment: Many of Dr Cunningham's questions would have been better addressed to the Soviet Government.

Mr Kenyon (Conservative): There is not a remarkable contrast between the reticence of the Soviet authorities about what is obviously an extremely serious accident, and the openness of the system in western governments, most recently exemplified by the statement of the new chairman of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd which has been so warmly welcomed by environmentalists in this country.

Mr Baker: There is, unfortunately, a striking contrast because we have the public opinion of our people to be concerned about and it is right and proper we should put our cards on the table and be open as we are in all these matters.

I have been speaking today to representatives of our team of nuclear inspectors and confirming with them that in our nuclear policy safety is absolutely paramount. Nuclear energy must carry the conviction of the people and this can only be done with very vigorous safety standards.

Mr David Alton: The British Council has said there are about 100 students and teachers in the region. What efforts are being made in Moscow and Leningrad to contact them and ascertain their safety?

Mr Kenyon: It is criticising the lack of information coming from the Soviet Union but the Government is running a tight rein over the information it makes available on its own nuclear industry. Far too much secrecy surrounds it in this country.

Mr Baker: He does his cause no good by exaggerating. There is openness and frankness in dealing with this. It is one of the most regulated industries with a vast number of checks and balances.

Regarding the students, our embassy in Moscow is checking on them. We think there are some students in Minsk which is about 100 km north of the incident.

Mr Tony Benn: Before he is too ready to criticise the concealment, which like him I strongly regret, will he look to see that when there was a major nuclear explosion in 1958 in the Soviet Union it was monitored by the CIA which notified the Atomic Energy Authority in Britain and told them not to make it public for fear it might cause anxiety about nuclear power. There are many other examples.

There is a growing number of people who believe the time has come to phase out nuclear power.

Mr Baker: He would be on stronger ground if the Soviet Union had told the world about this when it occurred rather than us learning about it from monitoring in other countries. I would strongly contest his view that there is less than frankness in our own industry.

He later said that in Britain there had been no full-scale nuclear incident in 25 years in operating civil power stations.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C): Would he give advice on how to deal with the Greenpeace protesters and other environmental groups no doubt at this moment massing outside the Soviet Embassy? (Laughter)

Mr Baker: The protests are likely to be much greater in western capitals this weekend than you are ever going to hear in Moscow.



Kenyon: Make immediate representations

State aid available for tin mining

INDUSTRY

More could not have been done by the Government in the last few weeks to try to resolve the position of the Cornish tin mining industry, Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said in reply to a private notice question in the Commons.

Mr David Pugh (Tunbridge Wells, Lib) asked for a statement on the Government's intention for the future of the industry.

Mr Morrison: The Government has made it clear it is willing to consider applications for assistance towards the cost of projects which will make the mines competitive in a free tin market.

An application from Geevor Tin Mines is already being considered. An application from the Cornish Tin Mining Group is expected shortly. Both will be assessed as rapidly as possible.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said there was a desperate situation at Geevor where it is likely the pumps were about to be switched off. If that happened the mine would be flooded never to reopen. Could not the Government provide assistance to keep the pumps going at least until discussions about a range of new systems designed to meet all these objectives was being made when the call for industrial action went out.

Mr Gerald Keenan, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said prison officers carried out a dirty and dangerous job in increasingly difficult conditions caused by the collapse of the Government's law and order policy since the Tory crime wave which had produced a huge increase in the prison population and unprecedented overcrowding.

Why not agree that there was a proper and sensible role for a proper and sensible role for far more officers in deciding safety manning levels, particularly since the POA had offered to instruct its members to take no further action while talks were going on? It was a sensible way to solve these difficulties.

Mr Keenan said the neglect of prison service was suffering from the neglect of previous governments to do anything about prison conditions. The Government had staffed over and above the increase in prison population.

We were (he continued) very near agreement last week. We wrote on what he is talking about - the role of the POA in being consulted about manning levels. I wrote them a letter and they wrote back indicating they were near to what they had in mind.

Then (he went on) industrial action followed. They said they would be willing to suspend it, but it was not suspended. In those circumstances, discussions can only fruitfully take place if the whole problem of industrial action is resolved by their call.

Mr Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester, C): While deplo-

Prison officers urged to call off industrial action

DISPUTE

A circular will be issued tomorrow (Wednesday) to the courts containing advice on the implications for them of the dispute with the Prison Officers' Association, Mr Douglas Hard, the Home Secretary, announced in a statement in the Commons.

I will consider the added implications for them of the dispute with the Prison Officers' Association, Mr Douglas Hard, the Home Secretary, announced in a statement in the Commons.

He made a further appeal to prison officers to look at the package of proposals he had placed before them and to judge whether it was worth throwing that away by taking further industrial action. The Government would not conduct talks under such a continuing threat in this vital public service.

The sort of industrial action already seen at Gloucester Prison was unacceptable by the Government would take all possible steps to sustain the right of governors to manage their prisons and to protect prisoners and public from the consequences of a POA action.

Prison officers deserved to be well paid, but the heavy burden of overtime must be lightened and there must be increased efficiency. Progress towards that goal would be made by continuing discussions about a range of new systems designed to meet all these objectives was being made when the call for industrial action went out.

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Stanhope: No strike agreement needed

Finance Bill

HEALTH SERVICE

No one would be required to move from his or her present NHS accommodation without being offered a suitable alternative place to live, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said during Commons questions.

When Labour MPs claimed there would be forcible evictions of nurses and other staff from the sale of such accommodation, he said he hoped this would not be the case.

He said he had looked at the record, which showed some people were quite desirably seeking to move. Since the new national policy was announced last July, about 200 letters had been received from people who had been offered a new place to live. One of the objectives of the present policy of disposing of vacant and surplus property is to produce the resources which can be ploughed back to modernise, bring up to a decent standard existing property.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, C): The outrage would be if the Government were to neglect the massive amount of property currently in NHS ownership which deserves to be developed for the better care of patients rather than in which it is currently distributed.

Mr Hayhoe: He is right. There are substantial resources locked up in this property which can be disposed of, and the resources freed for the benefit of patients generally.

At the moment (he added later) more than a per cent of available NHS beds are not being in such accommodation. The particular stress points are often in the inner city areas.

Mr Michael Wynn-Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Up to 50 per cent of nurses and ancillaries could be forced to leave their NHS homes in the next two years. (Conservative shouts of "Nonsense.")

Contrary to the impression he has given, some health services have already started evicting staff even though they are supposed to have at least a year to make alternative arrangements.

How can a third-year learner nurse on £4,000 a year find any home in London where flats are at least £50 a week, which is almost her entire take-home pay?

Mr Hayhoe: He has got his figures wrong. The intention is that provision should be made for student nurses.

Assurance to NHS staff on housing

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Chief Secretary outlines stamp duty changes

Mr Peter Morrison, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, outlined changes to the stamp duty on American deposits in the Commons.

He also announced that the Government had decided to remove the constraint imposed by the Bank of England on companies from financing themselves by issuing sterling debt securities of less than one year maturity. The establishment of such a market should be a useful alternative to the current market for sterling securities, he said, and extend the range of sterling markets available in London to investors.

Mr MacGregor said that the lowering of interest rates by major building societies and banks would be a direct help to companies.

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Bill to protect shareholders

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab) will give leave under the 10-minute rule procedure to bring in a Bill providing for the better protection of shareholders and employees before companies could establish political funds from which to make donations to political parties. It would also limit the total amount which could be spent by a party during a general election campaign. The Bill was read a first time.

Dispute at tennis club ends

Gabrielle Crawford, the former wife of Michael Barnum, yesterday accepted a "substantial" settlement in a job dispute with David Lloyd, the tennis player.

Lloyd's sports club admitted liability in a claim that Mrs Crawford had been unfairly dismissed from her £10,000-a-year job as sports shop manager at the David Lloyd Slazenger Racquet Club in Hounslow, Middlesex.

The settlement was in return for Mrs Crawford dropping her claim for unfair dismissal and a High Court action for breach of contract.

Mrs Crawford, of Quarrendon Street, Fulham, London, had told the hearing that she stormed out of the club after an argument with David Lloyd, the brother of John Lloyd, the leading tennis player.

Shipwreck sale tops £3m

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Eighteenth-century Chinese porcelain recovered from the sea-bed is fetching from five to 10 times the going market price for similar pieces that have survived on dry land.

And gold bars that had been on the sea-bed for 233 years regularly doubled the balloon price; the first and finest of these Chinese gold "shoe" bars shaped like oval cups, secured £51,894, or roughly 19 times its bullion value.

By yesterday morning the proceeds of the Amsterdam sale had topped the £3 million forecast for the whole week.

Christie's auctioneer of the cargo of the Geldermalsen, a Dutch East-Indiaman that sank in the South China Sea in 1752, was into its second day yesterday with no let-up in the scramble to secure souvenirs of the historic cargo.

Bidders have arrived from Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, North and South America and South Africa, where the Geldermalsen was due to dock with a special cargo of inferior porcelain, as well as every country in Europe.

The team that raised the cargo and who will share the proceeds packed the front row

Firearms charge remand

Police ringed the dock at Horseferry Road Magistrates' court in London, yesterday when two men arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were remanded in custody "for their own protection" accused of plotting to supply firearms.

James Kerr Norwood, aged 37, a painter and sub-contractor, was also charged with having a Luger Mini 14.223 calibre rifle at his home in Morning Lane, Hackney, on April 23 without a firearms certificate.

David Percy, aged 36, a labourer, of 4c Nab Street, Shetland, Glasgow, was charged with having a similar rifle without a certificate at Tower Bridge Road, Southwark, on the same day.

Both are charged with conspiring with others on or before April 23 to supply firearms in contravention of the Firearms Act, 1968.

Mr Norwood is also accused of having 301 grammes of heroin at his home on April 23 with intent to supply.

The men did not apply for bail and were remanded in custody to be produced in court until May 20.

Dispute at tennis club ends

Gabrielle Crawford, the former wife of Michael Barnum, yesterday accepted a "substantial" settlement in a job dispute with David Lloyd, the tennis player.

Lloyd's sports club admitted liability in a claim that Mrs Crawford had been unfairly dismissed from her £10,000-a-year job as sports shop manager at the David Lloyd Slazenger Racquet Club in Hounslow, Middlesex.

The settlement was in return for Mrs Crawford dropping her claim for unfair dismissal and a High Court action for breach of contract.

Mrs Crawford, of Quarrendon Street, Fulham, London, had told the hearing that she stormed out of the club after an argument with David Lloyd, the brother of John Lloyd, the leading tennis player.

Judge regrets Leeds juries' tendency to acquit

A court of appeal judge yesterday expressed sorrow on hearing that juries in Leeds, Yorkshire, were prone to acquit.

Lord Justice Lawton made his comments during an appeal by a Leeds man serving a four-year jail sentence for burglary.

But when the judge went on: "Of course, Leeds juries are not London juries." Mr Kent-Jones disagreed. "I am afraid that is not so, especially these days, my Lord," he told the court.

Lord Justice Lawton replied: "I am sorry to hear that. I used to go there a lot and they could always be relied upon for common-sense decisions."

BARCLAYS HOME MORTGAGE RATE.

Barclays Bank PLC announces to existing borrowers that on and after 1st May 1986 Barclays Home Mortgage Rate will be decreased from 12¼% to

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per annum.

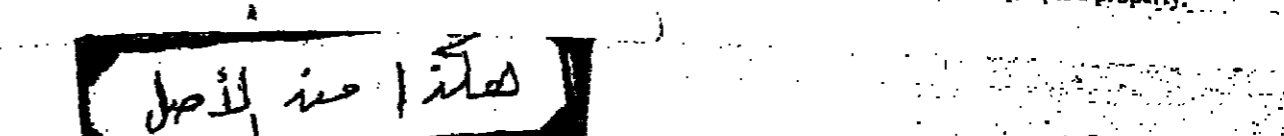
Musical delay

A computer fault has forced previews of the £4 million musical, Chess, which is due to open in London next month, to be postponed for four days and a charity show which was to be attended by Princess Margaret has been cancelled.

Fiennes home

Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham Fiennes, aged 42, the explorer, was yesterday recovering at his home in Barnes, south-west London, after a skin graft operation for gangrene caused by frostbite, which caused him to cut short a two-man Arctic expedition.

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Teachers' pay dispute boosted enrolment at independent schools

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Pupil numbers at independent schools have shown their biggest increase for five years, at a time when state schools were experiencing the turmoil of the teachers' pay dispute.

The growth last year — in the face of a 9 per cent increase in fees — was yesterday attributed partly to the disruption caused by industrial action.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I think that parents are now clearly voting with their feet not only because of the ravages caused by the teachers' dispute, but also because parents can see very clearly the difference between the resourced independent sector and the inadequately funded state sector."

Mr David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), which carried out the census into independent school numbers, said: "How much of it is attributable to the disruption elsewhere no one can say with any certainty. Many staff and parents in independent schools have shared the anxieties of their colleagues and friends in the maintained sector during a year of unprecedented turmoil."

The Isis figures show an increase of almost 5,000 pu-

pils in the past year, a rise of 1.2 per cent, compared with a 0.6 per cent rise in the previous year and a 0.25 per cent increase in 1984.

There are now 419,475 pupils in the 1,300 Isis schools, compared with 414,562 in January last year, the biggest increase since 1981. But the total number being educated privately is estimated at 550,000 children, or 6.5 per cent of all pupils.

The increase is against the background of a fall in the total secondary school population of 3.7 per cent.

The number of girls at independent schools has risen for the second year running; they now form 44 per cent of the independent school population. But the number of boy boarders dropped by 3 per cent, reflecting parents' desire to see more of their children by educating them at day schools.

Another area of growth was pre-preparatory schools for pupils aged two to seven, where numbers rose by 5 per cent.

Fees ranged from £950 to £2,200 a term for boy boarders and from £1,000 to £1,700 for girls. Day boys' fees varied from £360 to £1,500 and day girls' from £500 to £1,150.

Almost 20 per cent more children received help with

fees in this year's census. The money came from the schools themselves, local education authorities and the Government's assisted places scheme.

Head teachers said yesterday that part of the increase in fees was attributable to the pay rise paid to their teachers, which was higher in some cases than the 6.9 per cent, rising to 8.5 per cent, paid to those in the state sector.

Mr Christopher Everett, headmaster of Tonbridge School where teachers received a 10 per cent increase last year, said: "Parents recognize that, given the competence and professionalism of teachers in independent schools, they receive their services for a very reasonable amount."

"All our parents understand fully that teachers in our schools must be paid properly."

Last year independent schools spent £3.7 million on new buildings and equipment, and another £43 million on improvements to existing buildings and equipment.

Mr Woodhead said: "Our census confirms the trend to independent schools — but also the widening gap in resources between the independent and maintained sectors."

Fear of job losses cuts incidence of strikes

The number of private sector strikes last year was the lowest since the mid-1930s, largely because of the fear of unemployment, according to the annual report of the Conciliation Service, Acas, which was published yesterday.

There were still many problems in the public sector, but the state of the economy dominated the background to industrial relations in 1985, the report states. It gives a warning that the reduction in strikes tells only a limited story.

"It says nothing about the effectiveness of people at work, the satisfaction they get from their jobs, the extent to which business objectives fall short of achievement because of other industrial relations reasons or any underlying sense of employee alienation or discontent," the reports says.

One of the main changes during 1985 was the greater flexibility sought by management in its labour force because of new technology, intense overseas competition and economic pressure.

This was seen in greater flexibility between crafts and skills, in working hours, work methods, use of part-time workers and the relationship between pay and performance.

Evidence is growing that managements are deliberately separating "permanent" workers, who enjoy almost indefinite employment and favourable terms and conditions, from "peripheral" workers such as those who are temporary, self-employed and subcontracted, Acas says.

The report praises improvements in management style and attitudes. "In many areas 1985 saw a slow but welcome recognition that the solution of industrial relations problems should owe more to proper planning and less to ad hoc and ill-considered actions," it says.



Mr Kenneth Baker meeting members of previous Operation Raleigh expeditions in London yesterday. Clockwise from top left: William Stops, Paul Mason, Paul Blackmore (below), Mr Baker, Margaret Mair, Colonel Blashford-Snell (leader), Angela Harwood, Kevin Thomas. (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Baker backs Raleigh training expedition

Up to 120 young people from some of Britain's most deprived inner "urban jungles" will be recruited to join the round-the-world Operation Raleigh expeditions, including six young people who recently returned from the real jungles and swamps of Central and South America.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that (times) the recruits, many of whom have never left Merseyside, Hull and London before, will be sponsored through a £300,000 government urban programme.

They will be led through a tough selection and training programme later this year by seasoned adventurers from previous Operation Raleigh expeditions, including six young people who recently returned from the real jungles and swamps of Central and South America.

Colonel Blashford-Snell said: "Britain abounds with great young leaders. But I think the urban jungle today is far more difficult to deal with than the real jungle."

Recruitment will be completed in July and the operation will start next year.

Genetic engineering: 3 Tomorrow's cures in the making

The use of living cells to produce substances with medicinal properties and the complex molecules made synthetically by the chemicals industry are the basis of modern biotechnology. Pearce Wright, Science Editor, reports on this source of tomorrow's drugs.

By the end of the decade doctors, farmers, industrial manufacturers and housewives will be using new products that rely on two of the main developments in genetic engineering: recombinant-DNA and monoclonal antibodies.

The first describes how genes are taken from one animal, organism or plant and spliced into another. The second refers to a method of producing tailor-made cells, designed for use as the active ingredient in drugs and vaccines.

The new genetics have already become established in solving some medical problems. For example, without these advances insulin for diabetics could be in short supply by the end of this decade.

The use of simple bacteria to synthesize elaborate protein molecules, such as insulin, is being used or under development for a range of substances.

In particular, the vocabulary of scientists in this field contains increasing reference to lymphokines. It is a term which covers an immense family of molecules which the body's defence system makes, but which until the advent of genetic engineering could not be synthesized.

Lymphokines that have received some public attention are two families of molecules with potential anti-cancer activity. They are the interferons and the interleukins.

Other natural substances being made include Factor VIII, the substance in the blood that stimulates clotting of blood and is absent in haemophilia, and plasminogen activator which can avert other blood disorders.

This year tests have started on experimental vaccines against malaria. The advances in genetic engineering behind those discoveries should provide the eventual vaccines for some cancers and for Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Many other vaccines are in the pipe-line for hepatitis-B, herpes, diphtheria, poliovirus and salmonella. A longer-term search is on for an answer to arthritis through genetic engineering.

The ability to manipulate the genetic composition of cells for commercial purposes has brought a new breed of science-based companies into being.

The first of the British newcomers in this field is Celltech laboratories, which has specialized in innovations in genetics to get more effective diagnosis of various illnesses.

Through new collaboration with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the scientists at Celltech have made an important advance in designing families of drugs that will attack tumours, without harming other tissues in the body.

The latest approach is to employ the technique of making monoclonal antibodies, or Mabs, a Nobel Prize winning discovery made at the Molecular Biology Research Laboratory at Cambridge.

Molecular biologists can make Mabs that are like microscopic guided missiles. When injected into the body they home-in only on a selected organ or tissue.

A forecast by the economic analysis. Laing & Cruickshank, spanning medicine and veterinary innovations to industry and agriculture, put the commercial potential of biotechnology as more than \$800 million worldwide by the early 1990s.

Concluded

£90m refit for Invincible

HMS Invincible sailed into Devonport yesterday for a £90 million refit which will take her into the 21st century.

The 27-month refit, which at its peak will provide work for 600 men, includes increasing the Sea Harrier fighter strength from six to eight or nine and doubling the number of Sea King helicopters to 12.

A 12-degree ramp will be fitted to improve take-off and

the 20,000-ton carrier will become the first Royal Navy ship to have the new Dutch-made "Goalkeeper" close-range weapons system of 3,000 rounds a minute.

New sonar and medium-range air and surface warning radar will also be fitted.

The refit will mean considerable improvement to the accommodation for the ship's

company, which will be increased by 250 to about 1,400.

Details of the project were given at a press conference on board after Invincible's arrival from Portsmouth and duties in the West Indies.

Mr Robin Austin, the project manager, said he hoped to beat the 27-month scheduled time for the refit and added: "I have set a target some weeks shorter than that period."

Science report

Russians claim heart monitor innovation

By a Special Correspondent

A British invention, dating from the early 1960s, has enabled Soviet scientists to develop a heart movement recorder which, it is claimed, diagnoses cardiac abnormalities earlier than possible at present.

The magnetic cardiograph, conceived by a group of researchers at the Kharkov Institute of Cardiology and the physical engineering institute of low temperatures of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, measures magnetic fields in the heart, providing important data not obtainable from standard electrocardiogram tests.

It is based on the Josephson effect, a Nobel prize-winning discovery by Brian Josephson, now a professor of physics at Cambridge University.

Working at the Cavendish Laboratory in 1962, he designed an extremely sensitive cryogenic electronic device to measure magnetic fields. Now known as the Josephson junction, it consists of two strips of metal, placed in liquid helium.

Cooled to a temperature near absolute zero and separated by a thin insulator, the strips become a "sandwich" which is extremely sensitive to changes in magnetic field.

Equipment based on Professor Josephson's discovery has been applied to detect oil, date ancient pottery and identify sub-atomic particles.

Experimental computer circuits based on the Josephson junction have been designed by IBM. Japanese scientists plan to employ the Josephson junction as fast switches in computers, although these are unlikely to arrive before the end of the century.

The Soviet researchers claim a unique magneto-diagnostic cardiograph can identify magnetic signals sent by the heart, especially the stimulation and contraction of cardiac muscles.

Another advantage is that a patient need not be wired up, only to be within range of the equipment. The electrical potentials generated by the areas where ECG electrodes are in contact with the skin, can obliterate signals of abnormalities. The cryogenic magnetometer can identify the bi-magnetic signals coming from the possible source of a cardiac defect.

The Soviet scientists believe the equipment and techniques developed by them could also be used for the study of the brain.

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What's more, the total cover doesn't decrease from year to year as you get older; it stays at the high rate shown against your age today for the full 10-year life of the policy. This gives you the unusually high protection listed in our ready reckoner (see right) — so good that we let you have your policy for examination over 28 days.

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TOTAL COVER INCLUDING ACCIDENTAL	£20,000	£40,000	£70,000	£100,000	£130,000
AGE	AMOUNT YOU PAY MONTHLY				
20-29	£ 5.00	£ 6.00	£ 7.35	£10.50	£13.65
30-33	5.00	6.00	8.05	11.50	14.95
31-34	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
32-35	5.00	6.00	8.40	12.00	15.60
33-36	5.00	6.20	9.10	13.00	16.90
34-37	5.00	6.40	9.45	13.50	17.95
35-38	5.10	6.80	10.15	14.50	18.85
36-39	5.20	7.40	11.20	16.00	20.80
37-40	5.30	7.80	11.90	17.00	22.10
38-41	5.40	8.20	12.60	18.00	23.40
39-42	5.50	8.60	13.30	19.00	24.70
40-43	5.60	9.40	14.20	21.00	27.30
41-44	5.80	10.20	16.10	23.00	
42-45	6.00	10.90	17.15	24.50	
43-46	6.20	11.80	18.30	27.00	
44-47	6.40	12.80	20.65	29.50	
45-48	7.10	14.20	23.10	33.00	
46-49	7.70	15.40	25.20		
47-50	8.30	16.60	27.30		
48-51	9.30	18.60	30.80		
49-52	10.10	20.30	33.60		
50-53	11.00	22.00	36.75		
51-54	12.10	24.20			
52-55	13.30	26.60			
53-54	14.60	29.20			
54-55	15.90	31.90			
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To anyone who has been afflicted with the problem of water penetration associated with flat roofs, it must have seemed that there was never going to be an answer to this continual problem. Well, at long last, the problem is solved. A Chinese based company now offers a product which will put an end to leaking flat roofs once and for all. The Glass Fibre system is based on the latest epoxy resin and glass fibre techniques, and its worth has been tried and tested in practical demonstrations all over the country. The product is mixed by our experts, and can be used on any flat roof, from the size of a small garage or home extension to commercial and industrial properties.

The basic principle entails the laying of a moisture proof glass fibre mat on a bed of specially formulated resin. This forms a seal so watertight that it does not matter if the finished surface is not level. Even standing water cannot penetrate this remarkable product's impervious surface. This product can be applied to any surface, no matter the condition. When the product is applied a 21 year guarantee is given on the roof.

The finish can be in a full range of colours to suit your local environment. This product has already received acclaim from not only hundreds of satisfied users, but from the national press and specialist magazines.

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Sabotage fears as Emperor's 60-year reign is celebrated

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan's 124th Emperor celebrated his sixtieth year on the Chrysanthemum Throne yesterday as thousands of police stood by on special security duties.

A ceremony of austere formality beneath a spotlighted rising sun flag marked the longest reign of any emperor in a dynasty believed the oldest in the world.

The first 14 emperors are now thought to have been mythical figures but the next in line, Emperor Ojin, is believed to have ruled from the late fourth century.

Six thousand guests, including sportsmen and women, politicians and personalities from the arts world, saw Emperor Hirohito arrive for the ceremony in perfect spring weather. Neither Empress Nagako nor Crown Princess Michiko was well enough to attend.

In contrast to the vintage of the imperial dynasty the building in which the celebrations were held is one of the newest in Tokyo.

Police were stationed every 5ft around the site and all roads were sealed off in fear of attacks by radical leftists who have pledged to smash both the imperial celebrations and the summit meeting of seven industrial countries in Tokyo.

In the early hours of yesterday a man was blinded when a bomb went off in the public lavatory of a Tokyo park about two miles from the palace.

Train services were halted for 90 minutes in two places after sabotage attacks claimed by the country's most radical left-wing group Chukaku-ha. Communications cables were burnt at Osaka in the west and on a prestige line in central Japan. Services ran late after the resumption.

The same group has threatened to assassinate both the Emperor and the Prime Minister. Last year Chukaku-ha threw the Tokyo rail system into chaos after simultaneous attacks put several commuter lines out of action.

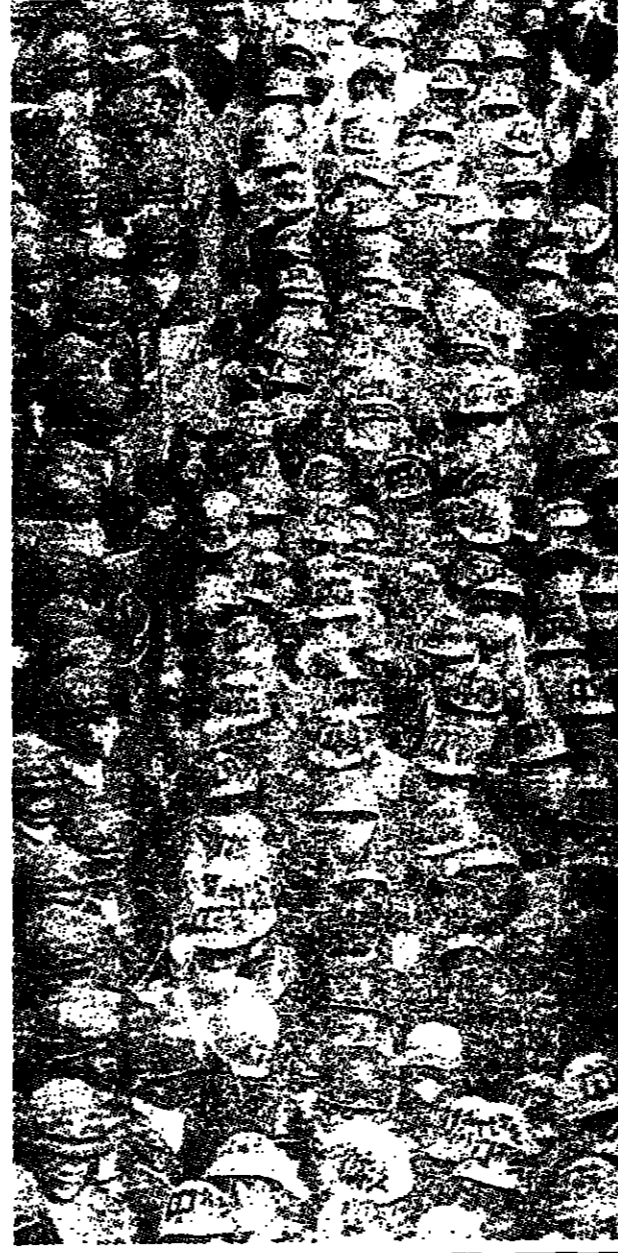
In a speech of congratulation, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, said that bonds between Emperor and people had grown stronger and stood the test of history.



Emperor Hirohito thanking people for honouring his rule as riot police (right) guard helmeted leftist protesters.

The Emperor, reading from a formal speech in his characteristic high-pitched voice, hoped for peace and the happiness of the world community.

Though the actual date of the anniversary does not fall until December the Government decided to hold the ceremony to coincide with the eighty-fifth birthday of the Emperor which fell yesterday. Opposition from the Socialist and Communist parties has centred on the Government's use of the anniversary for political reasons in trying to prolong Mr Nakasone's tenure and boost the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in elections which are due to be held in June.



The Reagan tour

Bali visit soured by expulsion of three journalists

Nusa Dua, Bali (Reuter) — President Reagan, carrying his "Winds of Freedom" message to Indonesia, was garlanded with flowers and welcomed by dancing girls last night at the start of a four-day visit to Bali.

But the start of his visit has been soured by Indonesia's tough attitude to the foreign press.

Indonesia ejected Miss Barbara Crossette, a *New York Times* correspondent, from Bali and refused to allow in two Australian journalists travelling with the White House press party.

Mr Reagan was greeted by President Suharto of Indonesia after Air Force One touched down on the short runway at Ngurah Rai airport on the tropical island.

Miss Crossette, an American, who is based in Bangkok,

was picked up by Indonesian security men and put on a plane to Jakarta and Bangkok a few hours before Mr Reagan arrived.

She had been denied a visa by the Government and came to Bali as a tourist.

Indonesia also rejected high-level US pleas and stood by a decision not to allow in Mr Jim Middleton and Mr Richard Palfreyman, Australian Broadcasting Corporation journalists.

Mr Edward Djerejian, a deputy White House press spokesman, said that Indonesian security and immigration officials boarded the plane and took them away to an immigration centre. He said there was "virtually no explanation". They would be put on a plane for Tokyo, he added.

US will maintain interest in Asean

From Michael Binyon, Washington

When President Reagan begins talks tomorrow with the foreign ministers of six South-East Asian nations, he will assure them that the US is determined to remain involved in economic and security matters in the region.

But he will face tough questioning on the growing moves in the US towards protectionism, and the six members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) — Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei, most with substantial Muslim populations — may also voice sharp disagreement with US policy towards Libya and the Middle East.

Thailand's vote in the UN Security Council against the US attack on Libya has upset Washington deeply.

Regional security will be a main topic, and especially the continued occupation of Cambodia by Vietnamese forces. Before leaving Washington, Mr Reagan said that the refusal of Vietnam to withdraw was damaging its own interests.

"The United States has made it clear that it's ready to participate constructively in an overall settlement," he said. "The Communist Government of Vietnam, however, to the detriment of its own national security, remains intransigent."

The Reagan Administration has supported the non-Com-

munist resistance in Cambodia strongly, but has been careful not to endorse the Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The President will give continued backing to Asean's efforts to negotiate a settlement, but will insist that Hanoi must accept a commitment to withdraw its forces before Washington restores diplomatic relations.

The Bali meeting comes two months after the change of government in the Philippines, and Washington's backing for democratic and economic revival there will form the background to talks on US defence commitments to its Asian allies.

Mr Reagan, however, will have to use his diplomatic skill to avoid suggesting to his hosts, the Indonesians, that the US is to take a tougher line with other authoritarian but friendly governments.

The booming trade between Asean and the US has made the association America's fifth largest trading partner. US investors now have a stake in the region of over \$10 billion (\$6.5 billion), and US confidence in the region's growth is one reason for the growing so-called "Pacific tilt" in Washington's foreign policy.

The avalanche of Asian exports to the US is causing deep concern in Washington. Last year the US had a total trade deficit with Asean of over \$7.7 billion, about triple the \$2.3 billion total of 1982.

Pupils lose in Spain's school war

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

More than two and a half million Spanish schoolchildren are likely to miss school all this week as owners of private schools stage what they call a "suspension of activities" in protest at the Socialist Government's new policy on education subsidies.

Señor José María Maravall, the Education Minister, acknowledged yesterday that the effects had been "extensive". The organisers claim that on the first day of their protest 95 per cent of the country's 8,000 privately-run schools closed.

Spain's so-called "schools war" is not about parents' right to send their children to fee-paying schools, but about efforts by Señor Maravall to exercise stricter control over the public funding of such schools, which in many cases cover 100 per cent of the running costs.

At stake in the dispute is a total of 135,000 million pesetas (£630 million) in state subsidies due to be allocated in the new school year.

The funding, particularly in secondary schools, was started by the Franco regime with a minimum of supervision, and the school owners and the parents' associations resent the minister's determination to limit their powers.

The "schools war" has clear ideological undertones. The Socialists are certain to make political capital out of Señor Maravall's reforms in the forthcoming general election as most of the private schools are run by lay organizations of the Catholic Church. Many parents believe their children get a better education in such schools than in the state sector.

Spain's right-wing Opposition, which took Señor Maravall's education law to the Constitutional Court and lost, has eagerly backed the stoppage.

The school owners claim that more than 600 private schools will be denied subsidies by Señor Maravall. But the Education Ministry says that the number would be less than 200.

The owners maintain that the Socialists are trying to "kill off" private schools.

Norway's PM faces vote test

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

After weeks of economic uncertainty and industrial turmoil, the coalition Government of Mr Kaare Willoch yesterday faced a vote of no-confidence in the Norwegian Parliament. The preliminary debate was expected to last well into the night.

The popular Labour Party leader, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, who was Prime Minister briefly in 1981, will probably be asked to form a new government if the Prime Minister cannot negotiate last-minute approval for his "Easter Package" of austerity budget measures, which attempt to recoup lost revenues resulting from the collapse in oil prices earlier this year.

Late-night meetings between Mr Willoch, coalition members and Opposition leaders have failed to reach agreement, in particular on a rise in petrol taxes.

Mr Willoch has threatened repeatedly to resign over the issue and has denounced as totally unacceptable Labour's demand of a 2 per cent tax increase on higher incomes in return for support of the budget package, which has proved immensely unpopular.

Audience wait and wait for prison Godots

Stockholm — It was perhaps the ultimate test of Sweden's famously liberal prison system: a national tour by five inmates of the country's top maximum security jail to perform in Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* (Christopher Mosey writes).

Their would-be audience is still waiting.

Four out of the five, all drug offenders, absconded through an open dressing room window just before the first night at the City Theatre in Göteborg.

The play's director, Mr Jan Jönsson, said yesterday he had discerned in the "body language" of at least one of the cast "a longing for freedom."

Referring to the content of Beckett's enigmatic play, he said: "Each rehearsal has been like a primal scream for freedom."

How to be the successful transatlantic business traveller.

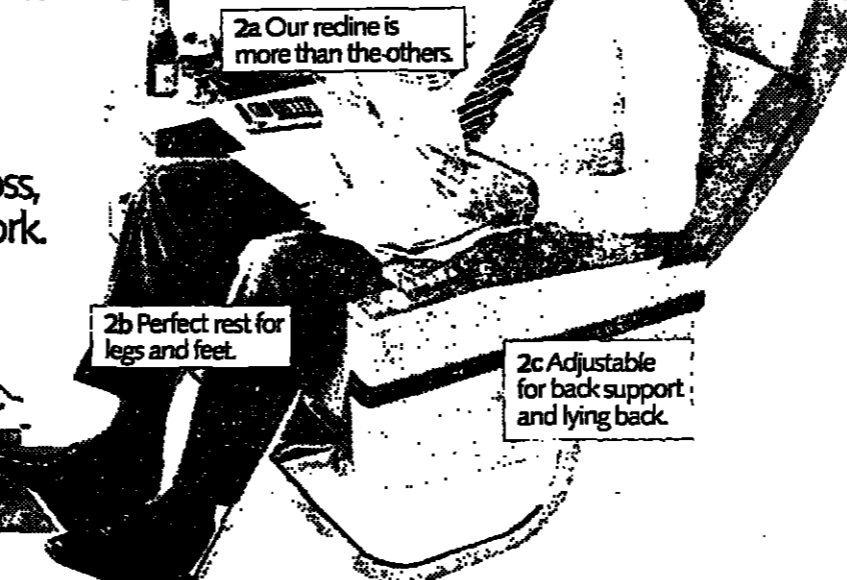
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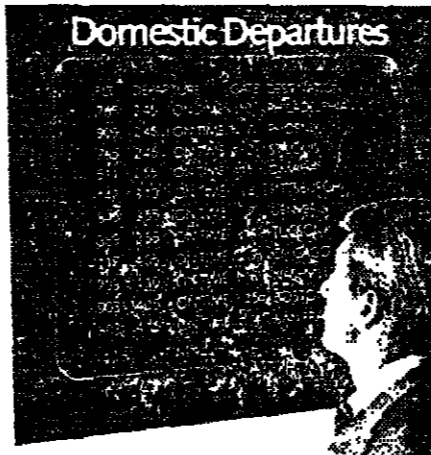


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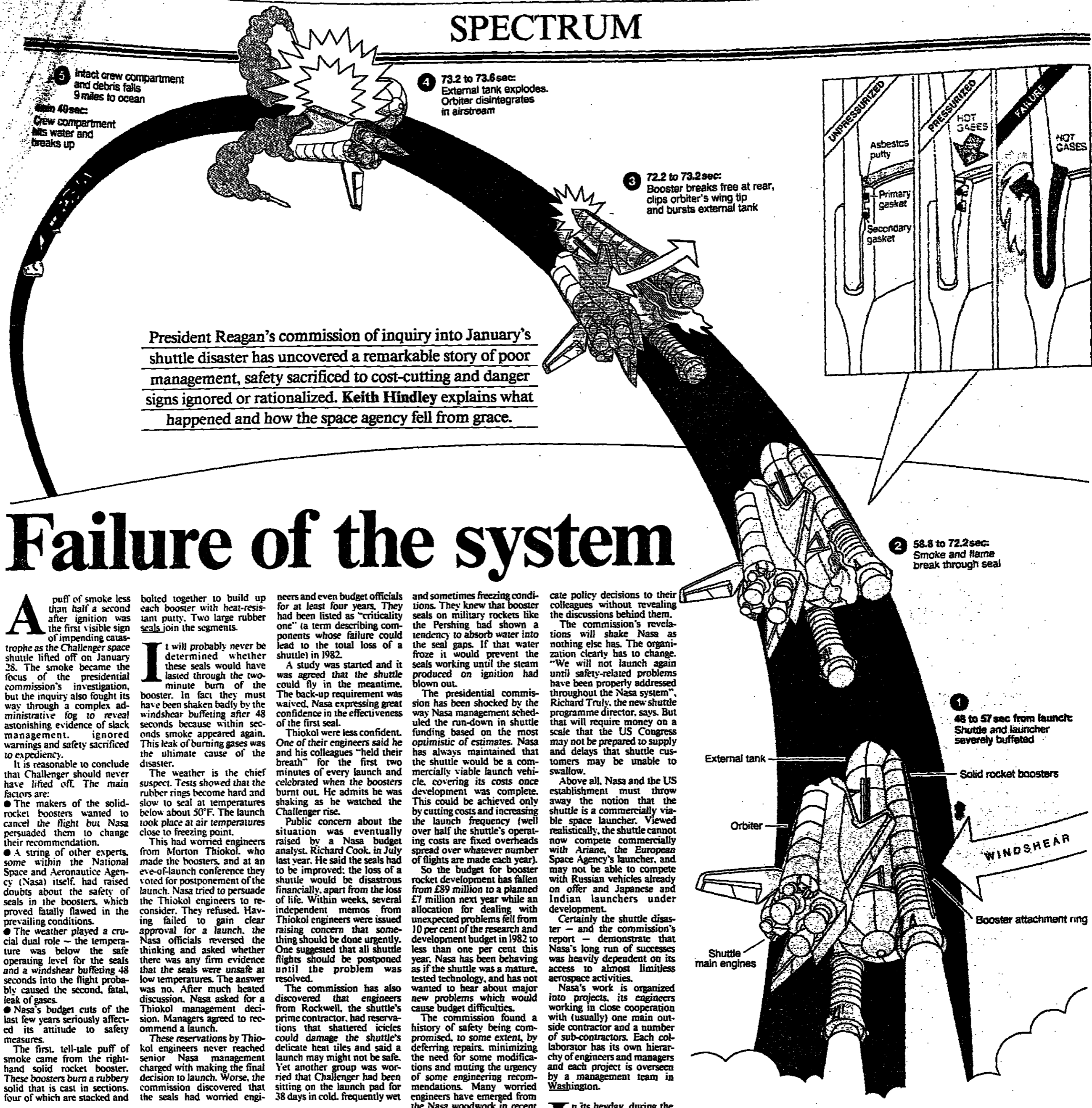


Leading the way to the USA



سكوا من الأصل

SPECTRUM



President Reagan's commission of inquiry into January's shuttle disaster has uncovered a remarkable story of poor management, safety sacrificed to cost-cutting and danger signs ignored or rationalized. Keith Hindley explains what happened and how the space agency fell from grace.

Failure of the system

A puff of smoke less than half a second after ignition was the first visible sign of impending catastrophe as the Challenger space shuttle lifted off on January 28. The smoke became the focus of the presidential commission's investigation, but the inquiry also fought its way through a complex administrative fog to reveal astonishing evidence of slack management, ignored warnings and safety sacrificed to expediency.

It is reasonable to conclude that Challenger should never have lifted off. The main factors are:

- The makers of the solid-rocket boosters wanted to cancel the flight but NASA persuaded them to change their recommendation.
- A string of other experts, some within the National Space and Aeronautics Agency (NASA) itself, had raised doubts about the safety of seals in the boosters, which proved fatally flawed in the prevailing conditions.
- The weather played a crucial dual role — the temperature was below the safe operating level for the seals and a windshear buffeting 48 seconds into the flight probably caused the second, fatal, leak of gases.
- NASA's budget cuts of the last few years seriously affected its attitude to safety measures.

The first, tell-tale puff of smoke came from the right-hand solid rocket booster. These boosters burn a rubbery solid that is cast in sections, four of which are stacked and

bolted together to build up each booster with heat-resistant putty. Two large rubber seals join the segments.

It will probably never be determined whether these seals would have lasted through the two-minute burn of the booster. In fact they must have been shaken badly by the windshear buffeting after 48 seconds because within seconds smoke appeared again. This leak of burning gases was the ultimate cause of the disaster.

The weather is the chief suspect. Tests showed that the rubber rings become hard and slow to seal at temperatures below about 50°F. The launch took place at air temperatures close to freezing point.

This had worried engineers from Morton Thiokol, who made the boosters, and at an eye-of-launch conference they voted for postponement of the launch. NASA tried to persuade the Thiokol engineers to reconsider. They refused. Having failed to gain their approval for a launch, the NASA officials reversed their thinking and asked whether there was any firm evidence that the seals were unsafe at low temperatures. The answer was no. After much heated discussion, NASA asked for a Thiokol management decision. Managers agreed to recommend a launch.

These reservations by Thiokol engineers never reached senior NASA management charged with making the final decision to launch. Worse, the commission discovered that the seals had worried engi-

neers and even budget officials for at least four years. They had been listed as "criticality one" (a term describing components whose failure could lead to the total loss of a shuttle) in 1982.

A study was started and it was agreed that the shuttle could fly in the meantime. The back-up requirement was waived, NASA expressing great confidence in the effectiveness of the first seal.

Thiokol were less confident. One of their engineers said he and his colleagues "held their breath" for the first two minutes of every launch and celebrated when the boosters burnt out. He admits he was shaking as he watched the Challenger rise.

Public concern about the situation was eventually raised by a NASA budget analyst, Richard Cook, in July last year. He said the seals had to be improved: the loss of a shuttle would be disastrous financially, apart from the loss of life. Within weeks, several independent memos from Thiokol engineers were issued raising concern that something should be done urgently. One suggested that all shuttle flights should be postponed until the problem was resolved.

The commission has also discovered that engineers from Rockwell, the shuttle's prime contractor, had reservations that shattered ices could damage the shuttle's delicate heat tiles and said a launch may might not be safe. Yet another group was worried that Challenger had been sitting on the launch pad for 38 days in cold, frequently wet

and sometimes freezing conditions. They knew that booster seals on military rockets like the Pershing had shown a tendency to absorb water into the seal gaps. If that water froze it would prevent the seals working until the steam produced on ignition had blown out.

The presidential commission has been shocked by the way NASA management scheduled the run-down in shuttle funding based on the most optimistic of estimates. NASA has always maintained that the shuttle would be a commercially viable launch vehicle, covering its costs once development was complete. This could be achieved only by cutting costs and increasing the launch frequency (well over half the shuttle's operating costs are fixed overheads spread over whatever number of flights are made each year).

So the budget for booster rocket development has fallen from £89 million to a planned £7 million next year while an allocation for dealing with unexpected problems fell from 10 per cent of the research and development budget in 1982 to less than one per cent this year. NASA has been behaving as if the shuttle was a mature, tested technology, and has not wanted to hear about major new problems which would cause budget difficulties.

The commission found a history of safety being compromised, to some extent, by deferring repairs, minimizing the need for some modifications and muting the urgency of some engineering recommendations. Many worried engineers have emerged from the NASA woodwork in recent weeks.

The commission has learnt that in the case of 740 items where the need for a back-up system was regarded as essential, it was waived. Cutsback have even affected management in Washington but always more on the engineering than administrative levels. Milton Silveira, NASA's chief engineer, says his staff has been reduced by a third. "We're now too short-handed to carry out the job", he says. "We're handling more flights, yet taking manpower cuts. We're just not able to take a close look at everything. The Challenger accident was preventable and budget cuts are partly to blame."

Another problem has been the rivalry between each of the NASA research centres. They are all in competition for funds, and communications between them have faltered as the rivalry grew. All but especially the Goddard Spaceflight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, have become secretive and tended to communi-

cate policy decisions to their colleagues without revealing the discussions behind them.

The commission's revelations will shake NASA as nothing else has. The organization clearly has to change. "We will not launch again until safety-related problems have been properly addressed throughout the NASA system", Richard Truly, the new shuttle programme director, says. But that will require money on a scale that the US Congress may not be prepared to supply and delays that shuttle customers may be unable to swallow.

Above all, NASA and the US establishment must throw away the notion that the shuttle is a commercially viable space launcher. Viewed realistically, the shuttle cannot now compete commercially with Ariane, the European Space Agency's launcher, and may not be able to compete with Russian vehicles already on offer and Japanese and Indian launchers under development.

Certainly the shuttle disaster — and the commission's report — demonstrate that NASA's long run of successes was heavily dependent on its access to almost limitless aerospace activities.

NASA's work is organized into projects, its engineers working in close cooperation with (usually) one main outside contractor and a number of sub-contractors. Each collaborator has its own hierarchy of engineers and managers and each project is overseen by a management team in Washington.

In its heyday, during the Apollo moon landing project, NASA built an impressive reputation for sharp, competent management, dealing with the parade of unforeseen problems that always arise with projects being conducted at the cutting edge of high-technology research.

NASA has always been involved with audacious leaps in high technology since only impressive major projects have any real chance of being funded enthusiastically by the US Congress and Senate.

But in recent years, massive overspending in major projects at a time when annual budgets were falling has removed the freedom from NASA's decision-making process. Everyone is acutely aware that funds are short and problems can no longer be solved by throwing money at them.

Therefore engineers and management have been forced to look at alternative, cheaper solutions — "fix it" rather than "redesign it".

COUNTDOWN TO DISASTER

- mission's commander Francis Scobee would by now be aware of a serious problem.
- 66.2 Bright spots of fire appear around SRB seal, especially on side facing orbiter and external tank.
- 66.5 Pressure of fuel leaving external tank begins to fluctuate; instruments would make this clear to Scobee. A bright glow, possibly caused by leaking fuel, grows between orbiter and right-hand SRB.
- 67.7 SRB seal now gone completely, leaving a ring of fire like a spurting shower head.
- 72.2 Launch vehicle veers as right-hand SRB breaks free of melted rear connection point. SRB swings outwards, attached only near the nose. Red lights flash all over Scobee's control panels.
- 72.8 Right-hand SRB damages Challenger's right wing tip.
- 73.1 Rear of stray booster swings out and nose pierces top of external tank near liquid oxygen tank.
- 73.2 Flames flash forwards along external tank causing massive explosion near oxygen fuel tank.
- 73.5 Shuttle's number one main engine shuts down due to an overheated fuel turbopump. The other engines begin to follow and Francis Scobee opens up his radio channel to speak to ground control, but...
- 73.6 Challenger disintegrates from aerodynamic forces, falling nose down. Cabin section tumbles free of debris, apparently damaged but intact.
- 280 Three and a half minutes later, after falling nine miles, cabin hits the ocean and partly disintegrates, killing any of the crew who may have survived the initial explosion.

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ACROSS

- 1 Fuss (6)
- 4 Dirge (6)
- 7 Dipped (4)
- 8 Unfamiliar (8)
- 9 Sword sheath (8)
- 13 P.E. hall (3)
- 16 Not discernible (13)
- 17 Basis ridge (6)
- 19 Arch link (8)
- 24 Circle quarter (8)
- 25 Decide (4)
- 26 Dog house (6)
- 27 Below (6)

DOWN

- 1 Hazard (4)
- 2 Of town (9)
- 3 Small firework (5)
- 4 Aficionado (5)
- 5 Marsh (4)
- 6 Poverty stricken (5)
- 10 Exposures (5)
- 11 Forum (5)
- 12 Loved excessively (5)
- 18 Egg sac (5)
- 20 Oyster gem (5)
- 21 Impossible (3,3)
- 22 South Yemen (4)
- 23 Lightly burn (4)
- 25 Double Dutch (9)
- 26 Hunt assembly (4)
- 28 Galvanised iron (4)
- 29 Lightly burn (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 937

ACROSS: 1 One-off 5 Post 8 Inept 9 Sapling 11 Francis 13 Dais 15 Distinguished 17 Nile 18 Lamp-post 21 Ewe-neck 22 Feign 23 Stop 24 Entomb

DOWN: 2 Niece 3 Opt 4 Fishing-tackle 5 Pipe 6 Spinach 7 Diffidence 10 Ground 12 Exit 14 Wisp 16 Silent 19 Opium 20 Deep 22 Fit

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Irish divided by divorce

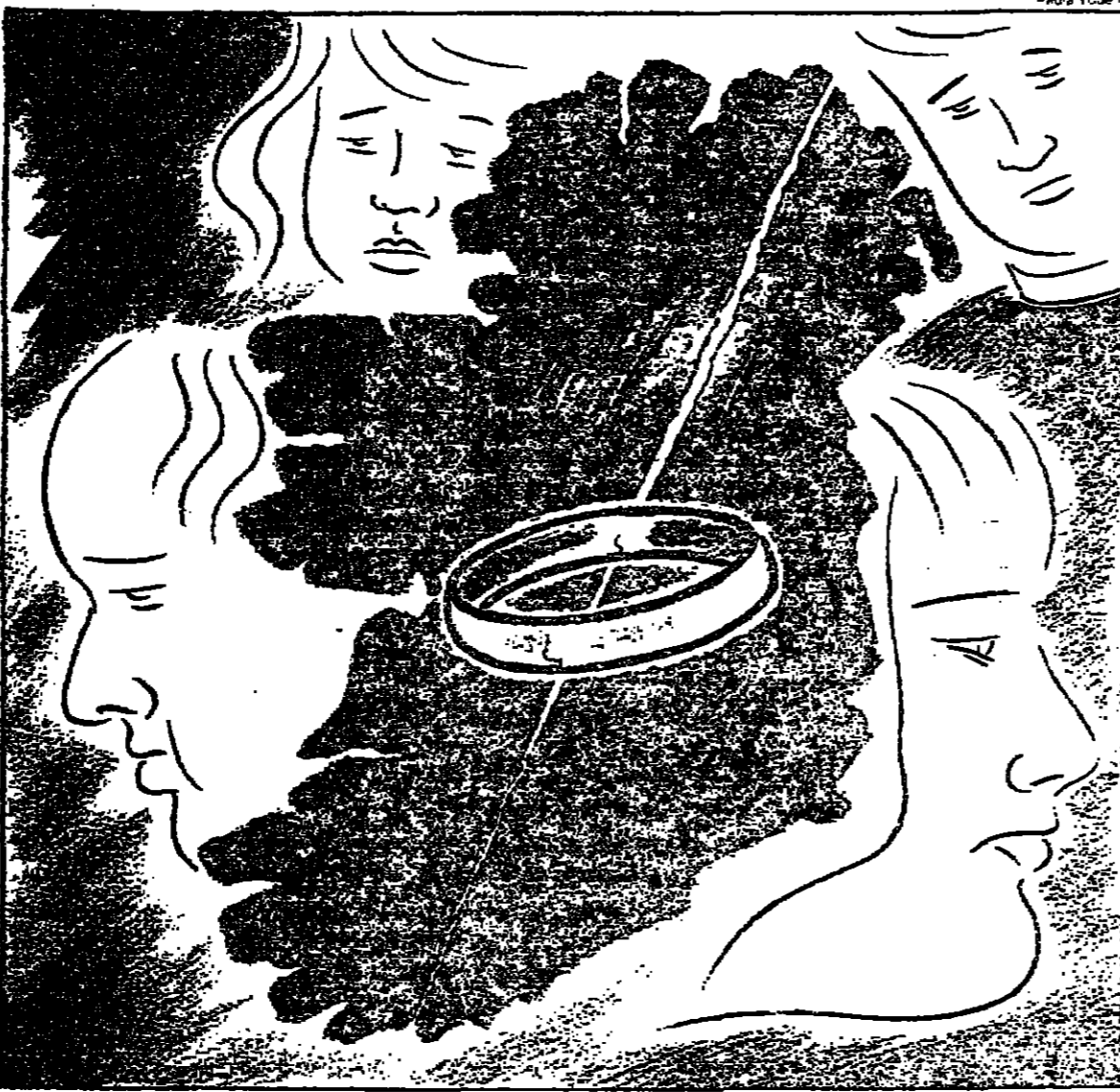
The announcement last week of a referendum on divorce in the Irish Republic may signal a battle royal between church and state, Richard Ford writes from Dublin

From the team that convulsed the Irish Republic with an anti-abortion amendment and reform of the family planning laws comes the next and probably final battle between church and state: the removal of the constitutional ban on divorce. The four years since Dr Garret FitzGerald came to power on a wave of support from liberal urban voters have at times seemed like a long-running serial on the question of the Irish and sex. A constitutional amendment forbidding abortion was passed in 1983 after a divisive referendum during which the country was given one huge sex education lesson. Last year a police inquiry into a child's murder turned into the 'Kerry babies' case, where attitudes towards adultery, women, sex and illegitimacy came under the spotlight even the modest reform in 1985 of contraceptive laws brought agonizing from the church and its members militant. But behind the contraceptive issue was the much bigger question of divorce, which Dr FitzGerald is now confronting by means of a referendum, probably in June, to remove the constitutional ban.

That personal bequest of de Valera to future generations, the written constitution of 1937, states in Article 41 that "no law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage". But without divorce, in the words of Mrs Nuala Fennell, a junior government minister, thousands are doomed "to live lonely celibate lives or alternatively join the ranks of irregular relationships within which they are discriminated against under our social welfare and tax codes, forgo legal and succession rights and have their children labelled illegitimate". Some keep secret from family, neighbours and even priests that they are not married. Others change their name by deed poll and then are those who use ingenuity and a little law-breaking to make it all legitimate.

One couple happily admit to being "bigamists" after countering parental pressure by travelling to Scotland for a register office wedding; the bride remains married to her first husband. Several options exist for ending a marriage, but all fall short of divorce. A judicial separation acknowledges that the marriage is finished but does not allow remarriage; a civil annulment leaves both partners free to remarry, although the children of that relationship are illegitimate; a church annulment allows partners to remarry although there are on average only about 75 cases each year and the second marriage is not recognized by the state; and a foreign divorce is recognized in the republic only if it is obtained by a man in a country where he intends to spend his life. If a woman goes through the same procedure the divorce is not recognized in the republic.

Foreign divorce was how Brendan (he did not want his real name used) ended his six-year marriage, which began amid high hopes on a package trip to Rome. "The Rome marriage was very acceptable to the family because we were effectively going to Head Office to get married." Two years ago, in order to remarry, he obtained a divorce by claiming he had lived in Britain for a year, although in



fact he only visited Manchester once to sign documents and had no intention of leaving the republic.

Similar "Irish ingenuity" was used for his remarriage a year ago, when he travelled to Northern Ireland, established domicile by signing papers, returned to Dublin and seven days later married in a civil ceremony at Belfast City Hall.

"I was legally divorced in the UK and legally married in the UK, but in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church I am still married to my first wife and any children of my second relationship will be illegitimate. Marriage is a contract in the eyes of the Irish state but it's the only contract without an out clause and it is time the people of Ireland were allowed such a clause", he says.

For almost 50 years the Irish have lived with the ban, but since the middle 1960s it has been under growing attack. Figures for those affected by marital breakdown are conflicting, with the Divorce Action Group claiming 70,000 in total out of a population of 3.5 million, but social welfare statistics suggesting only 30,000. The discrepancy probably results from a natural reluctance by some people to admit that they are living apart from their spouse, although attitudes in the republic are changing fast. Years ago it would have spelled political suicide for a Taoiseach to suggest a divorce law, but today, even cabinet ministers and backbench MPs can admit to living apart from their wives without too much fear of retribution.

If the referendum approves a change, the government plans to introduce divorce law characterized as restrictive by the pro-divorce lobby but as liberal by Family Solidarity, a nationwide pressure group formed to uphold traditional values.

The divorce proposals would insert into the constitution a law based on the irrevocable breakdown of marriage and attainable only after five years' separation. By inserting the law into the constitution, the Taoiseach is trying to maximize the chances of winning the referendum as it will leave future generations the power to amend

the law and so assuage present public concern about the dangers of rapidly drifting to divorce on demand.

The five-year qualifying condition has been welcomed by the Divorce Action Group for both political and social reasons. One member, Andrea Bridges, separated from her husband for 10 years, says: "As a person who has gone through the separation and who has made another relationship, I would say you need about five years to get over a marriage. I have a few friends who would have been drastically married twice and even three times if they could have remarried in less than five years."

Since her marriage broke up, Andrea, aged 38, has made a second relationship with Tom Kennedy, a marketing executive, by whom she has had a son, Cian, a brother for the two daughters of her marriage. She refused to accept her solicitor's advice to try for a civil annulment as she was unwilling to say there had never been a marriage or to confine her daughters to the status of being illegitimate.

Under Irish law, Cian has a claim on the estate of Andrea's husband, but not of his real father, and so to ensure security for him they have taken out an insurance policy to be held in trust until he grows up. "But in many similar cases the child would be in limbo if anything happened to the parents", she says.

She wants the divorce so that, in Tom's words, they can marry and put "everything above board". Andrea asked: "Why in Ireland should your husband be tied irrevocably to you when you might hate him?"

Despite offering assistance and guidance to those faced with the trauma of marital breakdown, both the Roman Catholic Church and Family Solidarity will oppose the referendum. The bishops will emphasize the indissolubility of marriage but will widen the issue to include the effect on the family and on children in particular. Aware that support for divorce is growing, the hierarchy is anxious to avoid making the issue a

test of the church's role in Ireland for fear that if it loses, as it did on family planning, it will further weaken and damage the institution.

Bishop Joseph Cassidy insists: "The pulpit will be used but not abused. We do not dictate. We teach and the people are free to follow their own conscience as the final arbiter."

Others suspect that hardliners will be unable to resist using the pulpit to point to the consequences for Ireland and its people if divorce is introduced. The speed with which the government acted, taking the church and Family Solidarity by surprise, was an attempt to settle the issue quickly and prevent priests thundering to their flock Sunday after Sunday.

Although Family Solidarity denies that it is a battle between church and state, Mrs Bernadette Bonnar, a member of its executive, says the referendum will be a "close-run thing". To her the referendum is an opportunity for the people to defend traditional values and culture. "Maybe we can give a lead. This change is for the worse and we must stand up and try and stop it. We would be a worthless nation to do otherwise."

A lifelong Fine Gael supporter, she is contemptuous of Dr FitzGerald, for whom divorce is an issue he cannot lose politically whatever the outcome. He needed to act because a new third party, the Progressive Democrats, has been drawing support from exactly the liberal urban vote that put him in power, and his much trumpeted "constitutional crusade" to remove laws which allowed critics of the republic to say "Rome rules" had produced little. If the referendum is lost the Taoiseach will at least be able to say that he has attempted to live up to his reputation as a "liberal crusader".

The church will live to fight another day, probably aware that it is only delaying divorce. Defeat will deeply disappoint those affected by broken marriages, but as Andrea Bridges says: "We will have our normal Irish solution to an Irish problem. There is no one better than the Irish at finding a way to get round the law."

Removing the fear of cervical cancer

Innovations in technology and training this week will give women a better chance of early detection

The fear of cervical cancer that touches every woman who has had an abnormal result from a smear test is now becoming increasingly groundless because of improvements in detection and treatment. Several events this week emphasize the progress that is being made.

Today, King's College Hospital, London, receives a donation of £28,000 raised by readers of *Cosmopolitan* magazine to buy seven colposcopes, the equipment which accurately identifies the first signs of cancer of the cervix. It is fast becoming an essential item in hospitals and clinics throughout Britain.

Tomorrow, two groups of gynaecologists will enrol in the latest of a series of intensive courses to train them in the use of the colposcope. Hundreds of their fellow specialists have already mastered the technique and are now using it for the benefit of many thousands of women.

Each year in Britain, more than 4,000 women are diagnosed as having cervical cancer, half of them die. Seventy per cent of the deaths are in women aged over 45, but there has been a worrying increase in fatalities in women under 35, even though more than a million and a half women in this age group have a smear test each year.

Computers could improve screening

The two priorities, therefore, must be for more extensive screening of women at risk, and greater application by doctors of the latest methods to identify and treat cervical abnormalities that could develop into cancer.

An overhaul of the existing, much-criticized cervical screening programme is already under way, and the introduction of a national computerized system should soon lead to more frequent testing and better safeguards.

For women whose tests require further investigation, the path chosen by more and more specialists is colposcopy, followed if necessary by laser treatment to eradicate potentially cancerous cervical tissue.

The colposcope is a type of microscope which allows about 20-times magnification to identify very accurately and assess any problem areas of the cervix. The procedure takes about 15 minutes and is virtually painless. The examining clinician may take at the same time a sample of cervical tissue for analysis.

The colposcope was invented in Hamburg in the early 1920s but did not begin to find a place in British medicine until the late 1970s. It is now used by more than 600 specialists in British hos-

latest intensive, two-day training course in the use of colposcopes for gynaecologists at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield tomorrow. A similar course also starts tomorrow at the Royal Northern Hospital in London, under the direction of a leading specialist, Mr Albert Singer. Those attending the courses will later improve their skills under supervision for up to nine months before applying them to patients.

"Every woman who has an abnormal smear deserves a colposcopy", Professor Sharp said. "We can tailor its use to individuals but everything depends on women having a smear test."

Following a colposcopy and the results of a biopsy, the infected area of the cervix can be vaporized by a laser beam directed by a specialist using a colposcope. But this is not the only remedy.

The procedure is usually performed in out-patient clinics and under a local anaesthetic, although in some cases that may not be considered necessary. Most patients feel well enough after the treatment to walk out of the clinic, although many prefer to take the rest of the day off work, and some may be offered a rest bed. The consequences of the treatment are slight bleeding and a mild discharge, which may last for up to a fortnight.

Professor Frank Sharp, professor of gynaecology and obstetrics at Sheffield University, was one of the first specialists in Britain to use the laser. "The treatment is 90 per cent effective - that sort of success rate anywhere in medicine is extremely impressive", he said.

Professor Sharp starts his

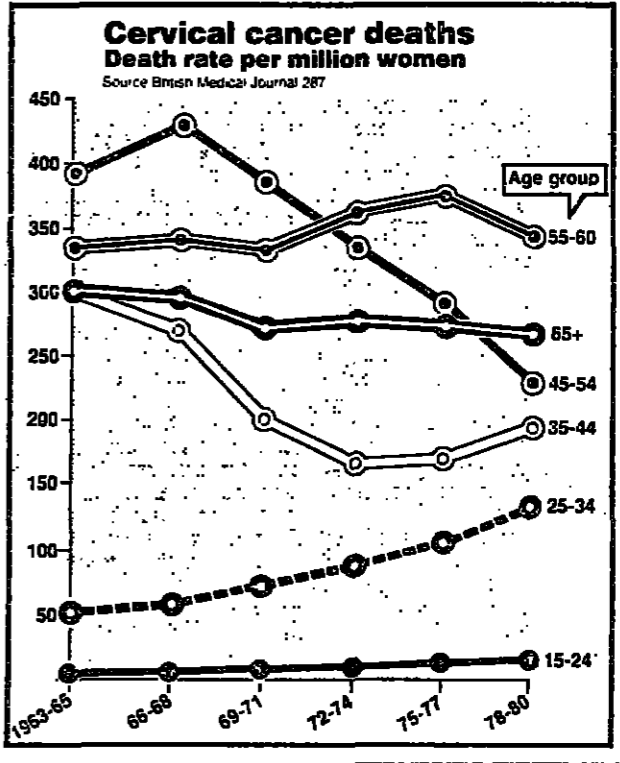
After laser treatment, patients are required to undergo two follow-up smear tests and two further colposcopies at intervals of four and ten months in practice, these checks are often carried out six months and a year after the initial treatment.

At many NHS hospitals, specialists are faced with a constant demand from patients referred by their general practitioners.

"We are overwhelmed by the numbers", Professor Sharp said. "We dealt with about 1,000 new cases last year in Sheffield."

A consultant gynaecologist in North London said: "There is an urgent need for more resources. A waiting time of three months for a colposcopy is becoming more common. For women afraid that they may have cervical cancer, that is an unacceptably long period."

Thomson Prentice



Tomorrow With Julie Andrews and Alan Bates on the set of Duet for One

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We've gone to the dogs. FIRST PERSON Auriol Chisholm. It was the realization that middle age had surreptitiously rounded our contours and stiffened our joints that prompted us to acquire a dog. Balking at the suggestion of jogging or aerobics to work us back to youth, we opted for the gentler alternative of walking. A dog seemed the only way of ensuring that we kept to our good intentions. Our knowledge of canine breeds was limited and we liked the idea of offering refuge to an abandoned animal, so we set off for the nearest Dog Rescue Home. Our enthusiasm was soon dashed when we discovered we were not allowed even to see the dogs until we had been "approved". Alarmed, we enquired what this meant. As well as being told that someone would come to inspect our house, we were presented with a lengthy questionnaire to complete. Was our garden fenced? Had we children under five? Was there someone in the house all day? It was the last question that particularly concerned me. I timidly muttered something about working a couple of hours every afternoon, to which I received the stern response: "We do expect our owners to be in most of the day. Of course, they can go out shopping." Going home dogless, I began to fear that we might not be "approved". It was not so much being refused a dog that concerned me, but the shame of my home not being considered habitable for one. What were they looking for? For a whole week I managed to keep the house tidy. I refused all temptations to go on shopping sprees and stayed indoors. After a week the effort did not seem worth the dog and I decided I would never get on with anything that needed a tidy house. We had also run out of food. I had almost forgotten about the whole matter when the inspector from the dogs' home arrived. Clipboard in hand, she swept through the piles of ironing and strode into the garden. Our unfenced plot stretched into a scented bluebell wood surrounded by school playing fields. "Don't choose a Jack Russell, he'll disappear", she said as she pressed the "approved" card into my hand. I felt as if I had passed an exam. And thus it was that we fell in love with an insatiably active Jack Russell and took him apprehensively home. He trotted into our sitting room, sniffed around, and then cocked his leg regally on our precious red velvet sofa. My husband froze. It was not long before I discovered why ideal abandoned dog owners are people who stay at home. They are either so exhausted from being dragged across the countryside by an ecstatic happy dog, or else they have to stay in to prevent the dog howling miserably because it thinks, if left for a few minutes, that it is being abandoned for a second time. We do get our exercise come rain or snow, but we are no thinner or fitter, and the dog is fatter. But a new and unexpected dimension has come into our lives. Apart from a mutual admiration society between dog and owner, we found that children stop to talk to us and old people smile at us and we have shared the lives of strangers who have told us their closest secrets while our dogs tangle their leads round one another.

THE TIMES DIARY

Tutu's triumph?

Bishop Desmond Tutu will make an historic address next month from Westminster Hall...

Audrey bearded

I'm glad I'm not the person embarrassed yesterday by Tory minister Lord Lucas of Chilworth...

Ape unmasked



The "gorilla" who was dispatched by the University of London's eminent Professor of Morbid Anatomy, Colin Berry...

Still in the red

The 31 surcharged Lambeth councillors must have scarcely believed their luck when they read in the Diary two weeks ago...

BARRY FANTONI



Actually, I'm a prison officer. I hit a copper on the picket line.

Bang up to date

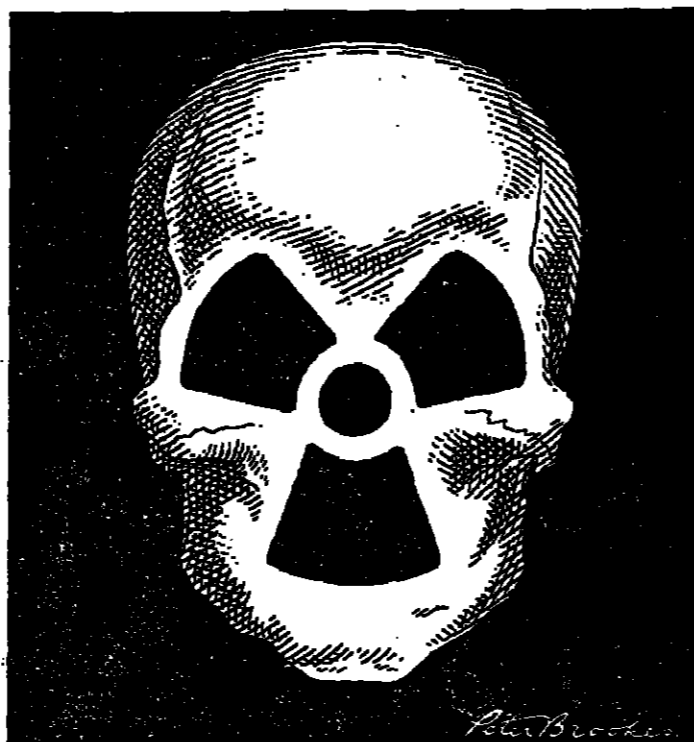
The psychic touch of English author Richard Hugo is causing alarm at Macmillan Publishers...

PHS

Ian Smart believes the accident's lessons may be mainly for Russia

Chernobyl is not Sizewell

Because the whole topic arouses such strong feelings, any serious accident at a nuclear power plant is bound to affect nuclear energy programmes everywhere...



Although it lags behind the United States, and even France, the Soviet Union ranks as a substantial producer of nuclear electricity...

Like their Western counterparts, Soviet scientists and engineers experimented from the 1950s with a variety of designs for nuclear power plants...

Besides making them in two sizes for domestic use, the Soviet Union has supplied some 15 VVER units to its East European neighbours...

The VVER reactors have generally worked well once in service, and are intended to be the mainstay of Soviet nuclear expansion for the rest of this century...

ment combined to cause serious damage to the main VVER assembly line at Volgogradsk...

One result of this delay is that all the more weight has come to rest on the second pillar in the Soviet nuclear power programme: the RBMK reactor...

Nothing quite like the RBMK has ever been built for commercial electricity purposes outside the Soviet Union...

tion by Soviet planners can only be explained on the basis of its excellent qualities as a machine for producing not only electricity but also plutonium for civil or military use...

Partly because of the delays to the VVER programme, RBMK reactors still supply the bulk of the Soviet nuclear electricity...

The author is an energy consultant and author of Nuclear Fuel and Power: A View Towards 2000.

We still know too little about events at Chernobyl to assess that risk. All that seems certain is that there has been catastrophic damage to at least some of the fuel in one of the station's four reactors...

The most obvious cause would be a loss of coolant, allowing fuel in some of the pressurized channels to overheat, burn and ignite more fuel and the surrounding moderator...

In any case, one important consideration is that what has happened in the Ukraine seems unlikely to have direct technical repercussions on specific power reactors outside the Soviet Union...

None of that will prevent waves of justified or unjustified alarm about nuclear power spreading across the world from Chernobyl...

But the peculiar combination of characteristics in the RBMK type may yet be that it will be somewhat easier to contain at least the technical ramifications of this accident within the borders of a single country...

The author is an energy consultant and author of Nuclear Fuel and Power: A View Towards 2000.

Tom Burke

Could the atom split the parties?

The Russian radioactive plume spreading across Scandinavia is also casting its shadow over British politics...

In little more than a month, two senior political figures, John Wakeham and John Cunningham, have become involved in serious public rows about nuclear power...

Michael Brown has already threatened to resign and force a by-election if his Humberside constituency of Brigg and Cleethorpes is chosen...

In March, Tribune carried a sharp, if coded, attack on Neil Kinnock, written by Peter Hain, vice-chairman of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee...

The Labour leader's crime was to have supported a vigorous defence of nuclear power by John Cunningham, the party's environment spokesman...

in Tribune in which he accused nuclear critics in the Labour Party of being "careless of those thousands of workers and their families dependent on the industry"...

All of which should be music to the ears of Alliance candidates in both north and south. So far, the cautious compromise position on nuclear energy agreed by the Liberals and SDP before the 1983 election has held up well...

However, this period of calm may now be coming to an end. There are currents in both parties pressing for a more positive commitment to nuclear power...

And the temperature does seem likely to rise. The Russian incident, the recent spate of accidents at Sellafield, the search for sites for radioactive waste dumps, and the publication of the Sizewell report later in the year will all fuel the fires of debate...

But they may not be wise. The chief success of the nuclear industry has been to keep itself out of the party-political debate...

Henry Stanhope on the financial crisis threatened by cuts in American aid

Autumn famine the United Nations dreads

system of "weighted voting" was adopted so that those who paid most money would have the greatest say - on financial matters anyway...

Pérez de Cuellar has already ordered a number of economies, cutting down on travel and the number of consultants for instance...

Congress is more interested in bringing pressure on the UN to put its house in order than to save itself hard cash...

Ethiopians were starving. A similar project to build a centre in Bangkok was also held to be totally unnecessary - as was a proposal to hold three special conferences...



Pérez de Cuellar looking for comfort from London

port. The EEC countries, which between them pay about 20 per cent of the budget, have made it clear to Washington that they are less than prepared to pick up the extra bill...

Be that as it may, there is a note of urgency about the UN these days as its businessmen try to come up with the solutions that might forestall the US action...

One reason for the present urgency is that the UN has so far reacted with a typical lack of it. The only point on which everyone agrees is that if the committee of 18 is to reach a consensus...

Why Rome is turning on Reagan

Rome Since last autumn, an almost unprecedented bitterness has marked the relationship between the United States and Italy...

But they have been abruptly reminded by the Americans that 83 per cent of the people in the US approved of the attack on Libya...

self-confidence. The country is growing used to political stability. Despite frequent quarrels within the five-party coalition government...

The incident has marked the quarrel over the bombing of Libya. The US ambassador to Italy, Maxwell Rabb, has done his best to explain that once the US makes up its mind to do something...

Republican party out of Craxi's government over the Abbas affair. Spadolini has been proclaiming that terrorism must not be met with counter-violence...

It is within Italy itself that the greatest repercussions of the Libyan crisis will be felt. Many politicians appear either not to have understood that something has happened to Italy internationally...

It would be sad if internal politics and judicial errors should overshadow the attempt at conducting a recognizably Italian policy in the Mediterranean.

What are they battling for? A rare butterfly? An old Italian painting? One of Brunel's iron hulks? Sir Roy Strong's moustache? It simply isn't possible to tell from the words...

moreover... Miles Kington

There's a lot of it about

The other day I turned on the radio and found myself listening to an interview which went something like this...

"And your committee has definite proof that it is on the increase?" "Oh, definitely. Twenty years ago the statistics were not all that disturbing, but now it is threatening to get out of hand..."

"No, but unless action is taken soon, we fear that it will..." "What kind of action are you calling for?"

"Official action, and the sooner the better. The government must put teeth into existing legislation, but above all it must make more money available to the people in the field..."

"You've probably heard conversations like it yourself. The people concerned are caring, concerned and aware - and you haven't the faintest idea what they're talking about..."

"I think Britain's heritage would be irreparably poorer. It has become part of our life, over these many years, and it is quite inconceivable that we should ever be without it..."

"I think so. But it isn't the money that is so important as simply making the public aware of the danger. If we can alert the public to the risk, then half the battle is won..."

Earthquake? Train crash? Bomb? Motorway pile-up? Or simply being asked to talk to the media? It certainly seems to be on the increase. The government has to do something before it is too late...

that's it. The truth is, it's not worth listening to anyway. Most interviews on TV and radio are identical conversations, virtually interchangeable after the opening sentence...

"What attracted you to it in the first place?" "Well, actually, a friend asked me along and I thought I'd have a go, just out of curiosity, and after that it just snowballed..."

"And now you are Britain's leading exponent..." "Well, I wouldn't say that exactly! But I have been very, very lucky..."

"Some people would say it was rather a well-chosen way of spending most of your time..." "That's because they've never tried it. It's a wonderful way, not just of enjoying myself, but of meeting lots of people. I can't imagine how I ever got along without it..."

"Falconry? Nude hang-gliding? Dancing the tango? Doing computer portraits of famous people? Listening to radio conversations and trying to guess what they're about?"

"I think it might alarm the average expert if he realized that when he is talking, it is impossible to work out his field of expertise, because he sounds like all the other experts. Not that you have to be an expert - you can be a total outsider caught up in some weird disaster..."

"People were very calm. There was no real panicking at all..." "But you must have been very frightened..."

"Well, yes, but really a thing like that happens so quickly you don't have much time to be scared. It's afterwards you realize just how close you were..." "And how is the situation now?" "Things are under control now. People have rallied round tremendously and everyone is doing their bit, though I expect it will be days before things are really back to normal..."

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1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

NUCLEAR PARANOIA I

Nuclear power is, to many, an unknown quantity which inspires fear. So is the Soviet Union. Accordingly, the combination of the two in what is now believed to be the world's biggest nuclear disaster has consequences which reach far beyond the vicinity of Chernobyl in the Ukraine where the accident happened.

Even without Chernobyl, the Soviet Union was facing an image problem. The new generation of Soviet leaders, headed by Mr Gorbachov, had stated its intention of rectifying public relations with a full-blooded campaign. They had called for more respect for the "human factor" — nod towards environmental considerations. The circumstances surrounding the Chernobyl accident show that no real progress has been made.

What is more disturbing, there is nothing in the way the accident was handled by the Soviet authorities to suggest that it would have been made public unless the radioactive cloud had alerted the Scandinavian countries to the fact of a large radiation leak somewhere in the Western USSR.

So far as the much-vaunted "human factor" is concerned, progress appears to have been just as negligible. If reports by specialists such as Dr Medvedev are true, the majority of Soviet nuclear power stations are built without the sort of safety precautions that are not only standard, but obligatory in the West.

Chernobyl 1986 may prove in retrospect to have been what Three Mile Island was not — and so far no Western nuclear mishap could be — because of the stringent safety measures that are observed.

Until now, the Soviet Union's apparent disregard for human safety — in the way it builds its nuclear power stations, where it sites them (near centres of population) and the lack of information it provides when something subsequently goes wrong — could perhaps have been dismissed as an internal matter for the Soviet authorities. It can be dismissed as such no longer.

The fact that neither the Soviet Union's East bloc allies nor the countries of Scandinavia — both of which were affected by abnormal levels of radiation after the accident — were informed about the accident until their own instruments detected it demonstrates a remarkably cavalier attitude to the interests of other countries and other people which is intolerable from a country which aspires to the status of a nuclear superpower.

Moscow's response to Chernobyl exhibited no sense of responsibility, either to its own people or to its neighbours. And if the Soviet Union cannot be trusted to behave responsibly in a matter such as this, what prospect is there for it to show responsibility in the wider world of international relations? Once again, the judgement of the Soviet leadership — this time a new, younger and ostensibly more flexible leadership — has been revealed as flawed and worse.

In the next few years there will be untold economic repercussions. The Western part of the USSR, including the Ukraine, has the country's densest concentration of heavy industry. Soviet industry is — despite attempts to cut consumption — still a profligate user of energy. Yet the Western part of the country is the poorest in terms of natural energy resources. The answer was — and is planned to be — until the year 2000 — to build dozens of nuclear power stations.

If one of these is now out of commission, the impact on Soviet industrial development will be serious. If the accident

NUCLEAR PARANOIA II

The worldwide nuclear power industry has always dreaded a catastrophic power station accident of the kind that has now taken place. For the realisation of that nightmare is bound to provide ammunition for anti-nuclear groups to play on latent public fears. Indeed, the chairman of Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was quick to fire off a round yesterday, charging that such a disaster could happen at any nuclear power station in Britain.

Such reactions are hardly rational. In the absence of a full explanation of the causes of the Chernobyl accident, to state that it could be repeated in Britain's first and second generation gas-cooled reactors, which are of a fundamentally different design, is just to say that nuclear fission can produce catastrophic effects. That is common ground even to the most Panglossian advocates of nuclear energy and is the essential starting point for all nuclear engineering.

The development of that sophisticated industry over the past 25 years — which still continues apace, in its large measure a question of making the risk ever more remote by a combination of design, engineering standards and vigilance. In democratic Western Europe, the United States and Japan, it is also a matter of building in greater safety margins, more layers of failsafe mechanisms and greater provisions for containing the effects of accidents than scientists and accountants might professionally think necessary, in order to satisfy public fears.

Soviet secrecy has cut its nuclear industry off from the exchange of information that contributes so greatly to refining design and practice. It is not for instance, a member of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, the international club that maintains databanks on all incidents in nuclear power stations. It acts as a clearing house for even the smallest mishaps and investigation reports to be circulated day by day around the globe.

A disaster on such a scale to any nuclear plant anywhere is nonetheless likely to have a substantial impact on the world nuclear power industry. It is already suffering from a dearth of orders due to the economic recession as much as the psychological fallout of the near disaster at Three Mile Island. Problems of nuclear waste have aroused public fears about nuclear power in Britain and Germany even though power station operation has proved trouble-free for many years.

The nuclear power debate in Britain was revived by the plan to switch from gas-cooled to pressurized water reactors. The long-delayed Sizewell inquiry report and decision must already have been affected by the changing economics brought by the collapse of oil prices, however temporary. The Soviet accident is at least likely to cause a further delay. At present, it does not suggest any direct technical effect on the choice of reactor.

It is still vital that the causes of the Chernobyl accident and their possible implications for nuclear design and safety standards are learnt as soon as possible. The Soviet Union should open its own inquiries into the causes and medical effects rapidly and fully via the International Atomic Energy Authority.

make with the trade unions — though, understandably, not in those exact terms. The elements were moderation on wages in return for some approximation to full employment.

It might be said that even to get the unions to talk about wage restraint is a remarkable achievement, though whether it stems from Thatcher-induced appreciation of economic reality or love of Mr Kinnock is arguable. What is remarkable is how far there is underlying agreement on objectives between Mr Nigel Lawson, Mr Jordan and even Mr Ron Todd of the transport workers.

All are saying, in one way or another, that there is a trade-off between remuneration and employment. Mr Lawson wants wages restrained in order that lower unit labour costs should enhance competitiveness and so stimulate employment. Mr Kinnock wants pay restraint so that his programme of reflation and borrowed expenditure would not fuel inflation. Which is the pathway to more and more permanent employment? For all his new realism Mr Jordan seems to prefer the latter.

THE NEWEST NEW REALIST

Mr Bill Jordan's accession to the presidency of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers looks like further evidence that the Thatcher years are seeing a deep and probably irreversible shift in attitudes towards economic enterprise. Yesterday the very stuff of his rhetoric was the marriage of employment and business success.

From his witness of the rapid industrial decline of the West Midlands, Mr Jordan has emerged sounding not unlike a Chamberlainite Tory, greedy for a renewal of private wealth creation — on condition it brings jobs and a fair share for his members. He is, it seems, a man for the season, a coadjutor of Mr Eric Hammond in the "new realism", and so his election is welcome.

But whatever they decide to do, Chernobyl where, according to the Soviet announcement "there were casualties", is likely to remain in the international memory as a symbol of Moscow's bad faith with the world. And Mr Gorbachov, for all his smiling bohemie, will be unable to erase that image.

However, as an Englishman mercifully unaligned to any religion, I would be interested to hear the views of other Muslim British citizens on the subject of the writer and publisher of such a letter expressing a pro-Anglo-American stance in a Muslim newspaper in, say, Iran. Or why Mr Mughram Al-Ghamdi makes no mention of the horror that must surely be felt by many Muslim British citizens about the atrocities perpetrated by illiberal regimes ruled by such as Khomeini or the slaughter of Afghanistans by the Soviets and so on. Or the indiscriminate placing of bombs in public places by cowards, Muslim or otherwise.

As I have indicated I hold little sympathy for bombing of any kind. But I have sympathy for an American citizen frustrated by attacks on US citizens by Muslims who live and/or travel freely in countries in whom I detect no "ingrained hostility". And I have sympathy for a British Prime Minister who, against all purely party interests, holds out a helping hand to an ally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Upholding Queen's peace in Ulster

From Sir Eldon Griffiths, MP for Bury St Edmunds (Conservative). Sir, I am glad that my colleague, Cecil Walker, MP (April 23) dissociates responsible politicians in Northern Ireland from the mindless — and murderous — attacks made, in the name of "loyalism" and "Unionism", on the men and women of the RUC and their families. Alas, he misconceives the role of both the police and the Police Federation. It is not the business of the RUC to be for or against the Anglo-Irish accord. It is their duty to uphold the Queen's peace in their part of the United Kingdom and to enforce the law as made by Parliament.

These are no pedantic legal distinctions. The most welcome development in the RUC over the past 20 years has been its evolution from a heavily sectarian body, under local Stormont control, to an independent British-style police force upholding the law without regard to religion or politics. It would be a retrograde, and dangerous, step for its serving officers or their representative body to get involved in the politics of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

The Muslim view

From Mr Kenneth Gill. Sir, I read Mr Mughram Al-Ghamdi's letter (April 24) with a mixture of sympathy and irritation. Sympathy because I share a concern about the indiscriminate nature of bombing. Irritation because of Mr Mughram Al-Ghamdi's presumption that he speaks for the two million-strong Muslim community in this country and accuses her Majesty's Government of "an ingrained hostility to Arab Muslims". Well, well; always thought that the problem with our Government and country was a too strong pro-Arab position.

As a tolerant (I hope) member of the "host community" surrounding the undeniably important Muslim minority I must say that I am aware of far less hostility to the Muslim minority than to the Irish or Jewish or Catholic or other minority, perhaps apart from the National Front.

ILEA results

From Mr William H. Stubbs. Sir, On the front page of *The Times* for April 21 you report the findings of a survey which claims that the examination results for secondary school pupils in inner London are substantially below the national average. In the run-up to an election it is to be expected that there will be differing claims from political parties about the status quo. This makes it particularly important that readers should understand any distinction between political statements and basic facts. I should, therefore, wish to point out:

Firstly, the National Council for Educational Standards which has published the survey is not a neutral research group. It is a pressure group with a commitment to a particular view. Secondly, a survey of examination results carried out by government statisticians was published by the Department of Education and Science in 1984. It is the most developed analysis of national examination statistics so far. This concludes that pupils in the ILEA, rather than under-achieving, achieve greater success in examinations than expected when account is taken of their home background. The results also show that the ILEA ranks 45th out of the 96 English local education authorities.

The standards of pupils from schools in the ILEA have improved, both with respect to their predecessors and their peers elsewhere in the country. Yours sincerely, WILLIAM STUBBS, Education Officer, Inner London Education Authority, The County Hall, SE1, April 25.

Heritage fire risk

From the Director of the World Fire Statistics Centre. Sir, The British Automatic Sprinkler Association (April 28) can rightly take credit for their long-standing warnings to the Government of the danger to our heritage buildings. In one lesson of the Hampton Court fire that more British buildings should be protected by automatic sprinkler systems? The answer is probably "Yes", but sprinklers are expensive to install and if Britain is going to spend millions of pounds on better fire protection, taxpayers have a right to insist that the money is spent cost-effectively. Cost-effectiveness can only be measured by statistics and the truth is that British fire statistics (like those of other countries) are hopelessly inadequate. For example, the excellent statistics col-

Recollections of the Abdication

From Dr J.A.H. Wylie. Sir, Your obituary of the Duchess of Windsor (April 25) is not wholly correct in stating that the "American and continental press was full of the scandal surrounding the Prince of Wales and Mrs Simpson." At the time that I arrived as an undergraduate in Germany, in July 1936, and as a mark of courtesy to Britain which was much appreciated in Downing Street and Whitehall, Dr Goebbels had decreed that the story should not appear in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which, at that time, enjoyed some degree of independence. That decree held good until the formal announcement of the Abdication.

The text of the sensational speech was, in fact, disclosed to the world on December 1, 1936, by Charles Leach, a reporter employed by the *Bradford Telegraph & Argus* which had earlier that day reported the news under the seven-column headline, "The Bishop of Bradford's Reference to the King's 'Need for Grace'".

British citizens on the subject of the fate, for example, of the writer and publisher of such a letter expressing a pro-Anglo-American stance in a Muslim newspaper in, say, Iran. Or why Mr Mughram Al-Ghamdi makes no mention of the horror that must surely be felt by many Muslim British citizens about the atrocities perpetrated by illiberal regimes ruled by such as Khomeini or the slaughter of Afghanistans by the Soviets and so on. Or the indiscriminate placing of bombs in public places by cowards, Muslim or otherwise.

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Cost of frigate

From Mr D. Laurent Giles. Sir, It is high time someone in Government sorted out the cost of a frigate. On January 29, 1985, you reported Mr Heseltine making a statement in Parliament, as Defence Secretary, that the price of a Type 22 frigate was "about £140 million". At the time of the launching of the Type 22 frigates Coventry and Sheffield earlier this month their price was widely reported, in your columns and on the BBC as "100 million".

Last night, in its MOD programme — made with the fullest cooperation of the Ministry of Defence — the BBC gave the cost of a Type 22 as £170 million. Either the British public is entitled to an accurate figure for such a huge item of public expenditure, or it is not. If it is, could an accurate and consistent figure be quoted? If not, would the minister concerned kindly make an unequivocal statement to that effect? Yours faithfully, DAVID GILES, Director, Thornycroft, Giles & Associates Ltd, The Embankment, Bembidge, Isle of Wight.

Still, small voice

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge. Sir, In case any of your readers are misled by Dr John Herbert's absurd suggestion in your issue of April 25 that quantum theory, based on mathematics, "virtually demands the existence of an external God", let me assure them that this is not so. Indeed, theoretical physicists have in their ranks non-believers as well as believers in various religions, just as in the case in the general population. Yours faithfully, HERMANN BÖNDI, Churchill College, Cambridge.

Cyprus settlement

From Mr D. Lakatamitis. Sir, Your leader, "Time to settle Cyprus" (April 23) includes, at several instances, a vague and slightly misleading interpretation of the reasons why President Kyprianou has not given the thumbs up to the latest UN initiative. What the article calls unreasonable is the President's refusal to dissolve the present, internationally recognized government of Cyprus for a so-called "transitional" one, while major issues like a) the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops, b) the withdrawal of the imported Turkish settlers, c) the question of international guarantees (the UN plan names Turkey as a guarantor of independence) and d) the issue of basic human freedoms, i.e. to move, live or work in any part of the island, remain unresolved, even in principle, and are left to "working groups" to sort out at leisure. Whilst I believe there should

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 30 1877

The war referred to in the opening paragraph was the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878. There is no record of the name of the correspondent.

EGYPT

(From An Occasional Correspondent.) ALEXANDRIA, April 14. Nobody here knows how Egypt will be affected by the war. It is a practical, not a theoretical question, and yet no answer is ready. To turn to more precise subjects, in this country of the Nile we are to have two Easters, and the second, the Greek and Coptic Easter, is always a very noisy business. The churches are crowded, and at midnight squabs and crackers are lighted and guns fired, all with the object of "shooting Judas" whose death is made doubly sure by his being also burnt in effigy in half a dozen different quarters of the town. The rejoicing lasts over Monday, when everybody turns out to greet the coming summer. This day, the Coptic Easter Monday, is also the occasion of a great Arab and Coptic festival only known in Egypt, and was adopted from the Coptic practice the conquerors found when they brought the religion of Mahomet into the country. The Arabs call it the Shamin-en-Nesem—the smelling of the zephyr. They and their families go out to their country, some with tents, and pass the day in the fields, on the banks of the canals, under the shade of trees, eating fruit and sweets and making and telling stories. They dress in their brightest colours and group themselves into brilliant masses. Some take boats and paddle about the harbour, others float about in canal barges. They take nothing stronger than water, and yet they are as merry as children. Their talk and laughter are never ending and the smallest joke calls for the broadest grin. "It is so pleasant," said a great traveller to me to-day, "to come from gloomy England to so happy and smiling a people." Their food is of the simplest kind. Big flat loaves of bread, cakes, sweetmeats, lettuce and onions, with great draughts of Nile water, make their dinner. No matter what the weather is—even a hot desert wind may be blowing, they still go out to "smell the zephyr", and only return at the setting sun. From this date the natives date the period of Khameen (50), when the hot winds are supposed to blow off and on for 50 days. As a matter of fact we see these Khameen winds a month ago, but the Arab only calls it a Khameen if it occurs within this period. The origin they give to these words is very quaint. When Cain murdered his brother Abel, he wandered into the desert with the body on his back, not knowing how to dispose of it. So he wandered for 50 days, and the hot wind blew upon him all the time and filled him with thirst and fever. At last he saw two birds fight in the air and one kill the other. Then Cain said to himself, "I will do with my brother's body as the living bird does with the dead." The living bird scratched a hole in the sand and buried his fellow. So Cain buried his brother in the desert, and straightaway a cool breeze came and his fever passed. But every spring the hot wind has come back to blow for 50 days...

The statement in the English newspapers and the question in the House of Commons concerning the sale of 300 slaves in Cairo, has revived in Egypt the memory of the late Moutefish. His were the slaves noted as the largest in the country and the disposal of it was a matter of some difficulty when the great man fell. Even if Egypt were seriously disposed to abandon the system of domestic slavery, there is no organization for the protection of slaves who are suddenly released, and freedom in such a case would have been a questionable benefit. Many were placed in other harems, but a large number were sold, not in the sensational manner which has been stated, but by private contract. Indeed, there is no such thing as a public slave market in Cairo, although, no doubt, slaves are bought and sold there...

At present domestic slavery is a necessity to the harem system. A number of slaves are a sign of wealth and position. Every wife of a certain rank is entitled to have slave attendants. It would be impossible to maintain the seclusion of the harem without slaves. Female domestic servants are unknown, and if the wives had to do their own work, they could no longer maintain their strict isolation. To change such a system must be a matter of time...

Yours faithfully, D. LAKATAMITIS, 97 Saltram Crescent, W9.

First seal?

From Mr Rodney Bewes. Sir, I know gentlemen write to tell you they have heard the first cuckoo of spring. This morning, at the end of a long sculling session from Chiswick bridge back to the London Rowing Club, I was met by a seal Swimming happily about Putney bridge. First I've seen this spring. Indeed, ever on the Thames. Yours sincerely, RODNEY BEWES, Garrick Club, Garrick Street, W.C2, April 27.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 29: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this morning opened the Institute of London Underwriters' new building in...

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 29: The Queen held a Council at 12.40 pm today. There were present the Viscount Whitehalw (Lord President), the Lord Denham...

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 29: Princess Alexandra was present this morning at the Town and County Meeting of the Children's Country Holidays Fund...

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 29: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this morning at a Service in West London to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Domesday Book...

Receptions
Guild of Freemen of the City of London
The Guild of Freemen of the City of London held a reception yesterday at Saddlers' Hall...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 29: The Duke of Gloucester, President of the World Wildlife Fund International, held a meeting at Buckingham Palace this morning...

Edinburgh University Graduates' Association
A reception was held on Friday evening in the great hall of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh...

MEETINGS
Luncheon Comment Club
Mr Jack Newby, Director General of the Building Employers' Federation, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Luncheon Comment Club yesterday at the Connaught Rooms...

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

THE TIMES PO BOX 494
Virginia Street London E1
Announcements, authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

MARRIAGES
MARSHALL-JEDDY on April 26th, 1986, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, Nicholas J G Marshall to Stephanie A Jiddy.

DEATHS
ANDERSON - Mary Ann on 28th April 1986 in Albany, Western Australia, beloved wife of the late Jack, loved and devoted mother and grandmother.

BIRTHS
ALLEN - On April 28th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in May (nee David) and David, a son Gregory James, a brother.

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GUILDFORD
The following scholarship awards for the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, have been made:

DR PATRICK GROVE
Dr Patrick Grove, CBE, the founder and for 40 years the driving force behind the organization that has grown to become Amersham International...

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GUILDFORD (continued)
The following scholarship awards for the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, have been made:

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GUILDFORD (continued)
The following scholarship awards for the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, have been made:

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, GUILDFORD (continued)
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Horticulture
Gold medals for daffodils
By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent
Daffodils and rhododendrons are to be seen in their thousands in the competitions at the Royal Horticultural Society's show, which opened yesterday at Westminster.

OBITUARY
PROF DENIS ARNOLD
Authority on Renaissance and Baroque music
Professor Denis Arnold, CBE, FBA, who died suddenly in Budapest on April 28, aged 59, while attending a meeting of the International Musicological Society, was the Heather Professor of Music in the University of Oxford and the author of a number of books, most notably on Venetian music.

Appointments
Latest appointments include: Mr D.R.M. Henry, QC, and Judge J.A.D. Owen, QC, to be Justices of the High Court, sitting at the Queen's Bench Division.

Forthcoming marriages
Mr P. Agertoff and Miss C. D. E. Fynn
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Jens Agertoff, of Copenhagen, and Claire, younger daughter of Dr P. Fynn, of Cambridge, and Mrs Diana Fynn, of Topham, Devon.

Marriages
Mr J. A. de Lazzio and Mrs M. J. Price
The marriage took place on April 24, of Mr John de Lazzio and Mrs Judith Price, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel K. J. Price, DSO, MC.

Marriages (continued)
Mr M. A. McCaig and Miss S. J. Edgecombe
The marriage took place on Friday, April 18, 1986, between Mr Christopher McCaig, of Exmouth, Devon, and Miss Sarah Louise Edgecombe, of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Service dinner
Essex Yeomanry
Major-General T. A. Richardson presided at the annual dinner of the Essex Yeomanry Dinner Club held at the Cavalry and Guards Club last night.

Marriages (continued)
Mr M. A. McCaig and Miss S. J. Edgecombe (continued)
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THE ARTS

Television

So now the dust can lie

Riots, massacres and streams of pitiful refugees filled the screen at regular intervals over the last three days of *Lord Mountbatten: The Last Vicar*.

The series had the vast disadvantage of coming to the screen at the rear of a procession of fabulous epics about the twilight of the British Raj. It was hard not to notice that it lacked the dignity of *Gandhi*, the scope of *A Passage to India*, the gaudy vulgarity of *The Far Pavilions* or the humanity of *A Jewel in the Crown*. It also lacked a viable dramatic structure, so that piles of bloodstained corpses and rioting mobs were called for so often that the sights became wearisome.

The first problem was history, in which events seldom arranged themselves into the kind of heart-stopping, suspenseful progression that keeps an audience viewing for hours on end. The second problem was evidently sentiment; the Mountbattens are to this day dearly-loved figures but it was hard to project the qualities which aroused public affection.

The script often gave the impression of having been assembled from undigested fragments of military memoirs, and the dialogue flowed most freely when Auchinleck waved a pointer over a map. Any emotional dimension the drama could have achieved was nullified by this clipped, factually-orientated mode.

The series was unable to suggest the personalities of Mountbatten and his wife Edwina in any meaningful way. Nicol Williamson in the title role had an appropriate *Craze* Sex accent and an upper lip so stiff it was unable to animate the wooden dialogue. The most successful characterization was Ian Richardson's Nehru, which was achieved at the cost of giving an imposing newscaster figure rather too much plasticity.

The awkward question of the relationship between Lady Mountbatten and the Indian leader was treated with hesitancy and embarrassment rather than defecacy, and one had the impression that the scriptwriter would have been happier to duck this issue entirely.

In all, this six-hour mini-series was not equal to its subject and has effectively ensured that the dust of this era will not be disturbed again for some years - when, perhaps, the lengthening perspective of history will render it easier to portray with success.

Celia Brayfield

Dance

Emphasis on the character

The Snow Queen Hippodrome, Birmingham

There are not many three-act ballets where the male dancing takes precedence, but David Bintley's new *Snow Queen* is one. The pattern is set in the prologue, where malevolent creatures caper threateningly before their cruel mistress, the Snow Queen makes her appearance, and among her attendants the three sinister white swans, danced by men, are more prominent than her snow-maidens.

The ballet's plot, as Bintley explained on this page last week, is close to that of *Le Balser de la fe*. In fact, the plot proves better constructed and stronger in its drama. On the other hand, although Grahamwell Tovey has written a good, rhythmically-supportive, colourful atmospheric score based on themes by Mussorgsky, those two are not actually the equals of Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. At its best, the score is striking: for instance, the interlude after the prologue, in which you not only hear fragments of the shattered mirror falling, and the howling wolves, but you even feel the cold.

The colourful quality of the music is matched by Terry Barler's designs, simple but giving definition to each scene, and by the emphasis in Bintley's choreography on character-dancing. That allows him to show off the strength of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's men, not least in an ingeniously hectic sequence at the betrothal of Kay and Gerda.

Michael O'Hare, in a long, difficult and funny solo with a bottle, largely ran away with honours for dancing at Monday night's premiere, with notable performances also from Graham Lustig as a white-haired dwarf, capriciously evil, and the three wolves led by Peter Jacobson.

One unfortunate result was that the ostensible hero, Kay, seemed by contrast a pallid

figure for some of the time. That is a little unfair on Roland Price, who acts intelligently and sympathetically, and dances with vigour. He is best when being wicked, and also, crucially, in the ballet's final scene with its mixture of pathos, courage and doom. This is a performance which one can expect to grow once he has the measure of the role.

Bintley has given the ballet, contrary to Hans Andersen's story, a tragic ending. Gerda's devotion in following Kay to the Snow Queen's palace still serves to melt his heart, but it is too late, his fate is already sealed. That makes, in the theatre, a more definite climax. It also reflects the relative strength of the two main women's roles.

Leanne Benjamin gives Gerda a quiet tenacity, but she cannot find much more in the part, while the title role offers an opportunity for a sense of mystery and command. Samira Saidi, in much the biggest role she has yet played, justifies Bintley's choice of her not only by her striking beauty but

by finding an inward stillness that conveys the character's confidence in her supernatural power. She carries off her long solos and the difficult duet at the end with confident skill.

The *Snow Queen* is a long ballet, but it does not feel unduly protracted. How well its dance interest will sustain repeated viewings and varied interpretations remains to be seen. What is clear at first sight is that it offers an evening of exciting entertainment, not least by such tricks as the shattered mirror, the sudden apparition of a giant carnival figure and the use at one point of a tiny puppet.

It suits this company well, too, offering minor roles that are done with great zest, by Anita Landa and Desmond Kelly as Gerda's parents and by several players in the carnival scene. There is also a chance for the women in the final episode to redress the balance of power, which they take with joyous enthusiasm.

John Percival



Roland Price, acting intelligently and sympathetically, with Samira Saidi, confident in the Snow Queen's supernatural powers, thoroughly justifying selection for her biggest role yet

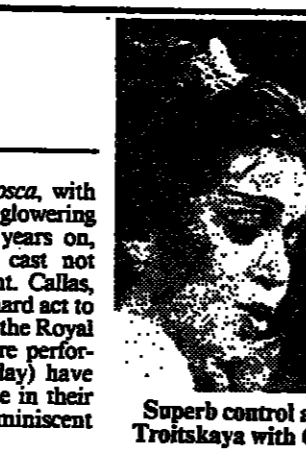
Opera

Tosca Covent Garden

The shadows of Zeffirelli's *Tosca*, with its flickering candle-light and glowering dawn, can all too easily, 22 years on, threaten to swallow up any cast not entirely equal to its epic might. Callas, Cioni and Gobbi have been a hard act to follow. But it could just be that the Royal Opera, for a previous two more performances (tomorrow and Monday) have hit on a team who will provide in their own way fruit for future reminiscent comparison.

That team is Ingvar Wixell, returning as Scarpia, Giuseppe Giacomini in his first Covent Garden Cavaradosi and, above all, the Soviet soprano Natalia Troitskaya, making her British debut. They take the opera and its production - both untested archetypes - entirely on its own terms, and in doing so are delighting an eager, cross-legged auditorium audience in this week of the annual Covent Garden Proms.

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Superb control and timing: Natalia Troitskaya with Giuseppe Giacomini

chest-orientated Eastern European soprano. She has this Tosca's pride, volatility and dignity with superb control and timing.

That timing comes into its own in the central act. Wixell, who has been preparing with wonderfully understated insinuation a crescendo of presence up to this point, creates with Troitskaya a physical tension greater than any I have sensed here before. It is to Giacomini's credit that, despite a short patch of vocal as well as physical torment at this point, he was able to equal it in Act III. Elegance and eloquence reinforce each other in this dense, totally unhistorical tenor just as dignity tempers ardour in this Cavaradosi.

With newly invigorated staging by Wilfred Judd, the evening, under a different baton, could just have turned over from good to great. Michael Schonwandt creates a welcome transparency of text and texture, but offers conducting of the short-term, sectional school, observing myopically for too much of the time and tending to breathe alongside rather than with and through his singers and his composer.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Ballroom Stratford East

London theatre-goers have seen little of Wales in recent years, but to judge from this piece by Robert Pugh nothing much has changed since the time of the Thomases, Dylan and Gwyn.

Glamorgan in the Eighties still comes over as a stifling community of twitching neuroticisms and poisonous gossip, where people get married to punish each other for life and the only satisfactions are those of domestic martyrdom and drink.

Mr Pugh examines several stunted lives in the course of a long evening, but his main story is that of Mary, who discovers that her husband Dick has been sneaking off every Monday for an evening of dancing. At this appalling act of disloyalty she arms herself with a hammer and hides in the back of his van, emerging like an avenging fury on the Top Rank floor, casting a spanner into his tango.

Long before we get to this climax, any hope of comedy has long since evaporated. In tone, the piece amounts to a fatal combination of Strindberg and small-town gossip.

It opens with the sight of Dick and his mates at work, sending down service lockers at an RAF base and swapping small talk about people we have not met, and rough male horseplay that discourages further acquaintance with the company on view.

When the action begins closing in, it is to follow the separate miseries of the orphaned Bob, who gives up university for an ostracized unmarried mother, Ellis, whose wife goes down with cancer, and Mary's old mother who sits at home complaining that nobody comes near her while hurling abuse at anyone who sets foot over her threshold.

Mr Pugh is an actor and a performed author, and the only explanation that I can find for this less than professional piece of work is that it arises from some violent, painful experience. Some of the scenes are genuinely painful, particularly when Mary and Dick try to patch up their marriage, only to enter a narrowing spiral of ever-more-bitter rows.

But one is soon rendered punch-drunk by these. You know too well what is coming and the characters simply lurched from exhausted endearments to renewed aggression with no intervening stages between the two extremes. It is so obvious that the only hope these people have is to beat it out of Glamorgan on the next train, that there is small interest in waiting to see how they will next draw blood.

The dance-floor scenes (extremely well accompanied by Colin Snell and Andrew Bush) are much the most stage-worthy of Jonathan Martin's indecisive production. Philip Madox and June Watson work hard and to small effect as the wretched partners.

Irving Wardle

Concert

BBCSO/Baudo Festival Hall

Despite everything, Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* works as a symphony. "Everything" includes the composer's confusing amalgamation of two different endings (Garrick's and, rather unfashionably for Berlioz's day, Shakespeare's) and his hybrid seven-movement construction: a meditation - part narrative, mostly instrumental - on the play's essential themes.

To these Berlioz added a characteristic personal slant by falling hopelessly in love with an actress he saw playing Juliet.

The symphony has weaknesses. The quasi-ecclesiastical chanting of the story by the chorus at the outset is in theory a good idea that simply does not excite the ear sufficiently, despite the BBC Singers' sophisticated shading of phrases here. The sixth movement follows too closely every machination of Garrick's "improved" death scene for it to work independently, and the finale seems to convert the warring families to the path of righteousness a little too easily before summoning the bombastic triplets of its "big tune".

But the workings of genius outweigh all that and, although Serge Baudo's reading was inclined to be one-paced (the celebrated *Scène d'amour* sounded particularly prosaic, at least initially), he amply demonstrated many of the score's riches.

The gradual superimposition of the party music on to Romeo's forlorn unison-violin melody in the second movement was carefully weighted, and the fiddles danced neatly. One can imagine more *prestissimo* interpretations of the "Queen Mab" scherzo, but the steady tempo allowed Baudo time to nurture a ravishing, diaphanous texture, marked by some especially delicate horn-playing.

The BBC Singers saved their warmest tone for the threnodic fugue of the fifth movement. Earlier the male chorus had turned their backs on the audience; it looked like some bizarre, occult homage to the Festival Hall organ, but it created the right "offstage" effect of party revellers.

The soloists have few notes, but they are vital. Sarah Walker, hymning the orange-blossoms and Shakespeare, struck a rich vein of ardent legato; Kim Begley negotiated the tongue-twisting description of Mab confidently, and Jules Bastin brought authentic Gallic fervour to Friar Laurence's plea for reconciliation.

Richard Morrison

John Cox (below), whose first production of *The Marriage of Figaro* opens in Glasgow this evening, believes in approaching an opera from its end, searching out the ultimate meaning he finds there: interview by Richard Morrison

In the luxuriant gardens of the mind

It was only recently that John Cox realized the significance of April 30, the date his new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* for Scottish Opera, Glasgow, was sitting in bed reading Hildesheimer's Mozart biography. It was late, but I had an inch of whisky left in my glass so I started flicking through the chronology of works. Then I saw it: "1786, May 1, premiere of *Le nozze di Figaro*." I nearly leapt out of bed. To have come that close to the bicentenary by accident! I know it's going to mean a lot to the cast, and I'm sure the first-night party will take us well into May 1.

It seems improbable that a director with Cox's long-standing Glyndebourne connections should be staging his first *Figaro* at the age of 50. But, as he points out, his Glyndebourne "apprenticeship" coincided with Carl Ebert's celebrated production, which Cox assisted on. "It was such a wonderful production that I think the general feeling at Glyndebourne was that *Figaro* should not be attempted again until something comparable could be achieved. It was out of the repertoire for ages." Then, during Cox's time as Glyndebourne's director of productions (1971-82), it was decided that Peter Hall should do the complete cycle of Da Ponte/Mozart operas. Cox is not unhappy, however, about coming to *Figaro* comparatively late. "It is one of the great masterpieces of the human spirit, and as such must be daunting. It was part of my five-year plan for Scottish Opera when I came here as general administrator in 1982, and I feel I am more ready for it now than I was on arrival."

Most theatre directors look for a "way in" to a work, but Cox starts by looking for the way out: he thinks the ending through first. "I did a sequence of operas with problem endings. *Ariadne auf Naxos* being the most notorious. You could re-title it "Waiting for Bacchus", but what the hell do you do when he gets there? So it became a habit for me to start with the last scene, to make the ending "mean" what the rest is leading up to.

"In *Figaro* the ending is also the most sublime passage: the forgiveness, and the following



ensemble. You scarcely dare breathe while it is being sung. I asked myself why is this talking place in a garden?"

The question has led Cox to explore the eighteenth century's fascination with gardens, both in the literal, horticultural sense and as apt symbols for the Enlightenment concern with the balance between Reason and Nature.

"It soon became clear to me that this opera's amazing tangle can only be resolved in a garden. All the man-made artifices, the complications, the carefully-structured intimacies and intrigues: in the garden it suddenly all comes out clearly. So what we try to project is the idea that when we are in emotional trouble we should consult nature."

But what about the Count's extra-marital ambitions; surely he is already following his own "nature"? Cox elaborates: "The point about the Count is that he is following nature in the wrong way; he is playing the beast. *Figaro* is a statement of faith in the perfectibility of human relationships. You can have wonderful harmony, but only if you get the balance right, if you don't distort it by greed or lust."

The designer, John Byrne, is a painter, playwright and director in his own right. "He's an astonishing polymath," says Cox, "and the most arresting things about his stage designs are his costumes. They are not just costume designs, they are character-studies down to the smallest detail. Both director and designer are determined that all the opera's concealments and disguises should be convincing. I have seen too many *Figaros* lately where the characters stand there in broad moonlight, and the only reason they don't see each other is because they don't want to wreck the production. That is design and direction cop-out."

Being the company's artistic director, says Cox, usually ensures he gets the singers he

wants. "I was keen to have Isobel Buchanan doing her first Susanna, however magical her Countess may have been. Curiously, a similar situation arose with Jonathan Summers. I know Covent Garden cast him as Figaro, but when I saw him doing Olegin for Opera North I knew at once that that here was our Count."

Cox moves on to a favourite hobby-horse: the conductor's contribution to a production. He admires György Fischer for involving himself in *Figaro* rehearsals from the outset, but feels this is becoming increasingly rare. "I have had a string of productions recently where, for whatever reason, the conductor has been distinguished by his absence from many stage rehearsals. That can't be good; you have got to collaborate. And occasionally one does get bitter. After all, we directors cannot usually just buzz off and do £2,000 worth of work in three hours, and buzz back again."

Moreover, Cox believes this may account in part for the rise of what has become known as "producer's opera". "Sometimes you hear the comment: 'I don't know why

Conductor X allowed it'. Well, the fact is that Conductor X simply was not around to do anything about it."

Cox himself has generally avoided "producer's opera". He is concerned, however, that the increasing need for opera companies to seek private sponsorship will discourage innovative stagings. "For example, we have just had a sponsorship offer at Scottish Opera, a substantial five-figure sum which we could certainly use. But it came with the proviso that 'in view of recent production trends' the offer would be contingent on the sponsor being involved from the earliest stages in the artistic progress of the project. I cannot even say that is wrong. But I cannot help remembering a phrase that was used to me in Houston ten years ago, when I was doing *Rosenkavalier*. Before we went into rehearsal I was told 'you must get concept clearance'. Now, if 'concept clearance' is going to be the name of the game, we must all assess our positions carefully."

After tranquil Glyndebourne, Cox joined Scottish Opera at a traumatic time. Nevertheless he does not regret the move. "At Glyndebourne I directed very much with the audience in mind. If I hadn't I probably would not have had a career. I don't condemn the Glyndebourne audience out of hand, as many do. But opera is really an urban art form, and I find it more meaningful to work in a big city with a broad spectrum of people as your target. Then there is the educational aspect of Scottish Opera, the pioneering work sending out those piano-accompanied *Toscas*, peered to the bare essentials, to small fishing communities on the east coast where the passion of it comes over amazingly directly. That gives me enormous satisfaction."

Irving Wardle

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FT 30 Share 1391.2 (+25.9) FT-SE 100 1656.3 (+27.5) USM (Datastream) 119.80 (+0.3) THE POUND US Dollar 1.5535 (+0.0015) W German mark 3.3781 (+0.0196) Trade-weighted 76.6 (+0.2)

Blue Circle in talks

Blue Circle Industries, the cement company, is planning further expansion in America after last year's acquisitions of Atlantic Cement and Williams Bros.

The chairman, Mr John Milne, said yesterday that talks were under way with a number of parties. Pretax profits in the year to December 31 rose from £113 million to £117 million on turnover of £947 million, up from £870 million. United States pretax profits rose from £18.3 million to £22.8 million, making it the biggest contributor to group profits last year.

Total success

Total's pretax profits for the year to January 31 jumped 20 per cent from £22.9 million to £27.4 million on turnover down 11 per cent. The dividend was increased by 29 per cent from 3.1p to 4p.

Builder listing

Westbury is coming to the stock market via an offer for sale of 10.9 million shares at 145p each valuing the West Country builder at £39.2 million.

Tarmac rise

Tarmac's pretax profits for the year to December 31 rose 23 per cent from £109.6 million to £135.2 million. The dividend is up by 17.7 per cent to 9.4p.

Above target

Jacques Vert, a women's fashion designer and manufacturer, reports pretax profits of £1.7 million for the year to January 19 - 67 per cent up on last year and just above the £1.65 million forecast made when it came to the USM four months ago.

Surveyors poll

Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors will vote at an extraordinary meeting in July on whether unlimited outside investment should be permitted in companies of chartered surveyors.

Bank sale

Lloyds Bank yesterday confirmed the sale, announced in February, of Lloyds Bank California to Golden State Sanwa Bank. A price of about \$263 million (£170 million) in cash has been agreed.

Burnett snub

Anglo United Development's plan to bid £42 million for Burnett and Hallamshire received a setback when the Burnett board refused last night to provide financial assurances about the state of the business.

CBI calls for further 1.5% cut in interest rates

Business leaders yesterday called for another "substantial" cut in interest rates - probably as much as 1.5 per cent - to bring industry's financial costs into line with overseas competitors. The Confederation of British Industry, releasing the results of its latest quarterly trends survey, which shows rising business optimism, also published figures indicating Britain's lack of international competitiveness in the relative cost of money.

Cheap oil could force more pit closures, NCB hints

A new round of pit closures and job losses in the coal industry was signalled yesterday by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board. Mr MacGregor gave warning that the slump in oil prices had put pressure on the coal industry to further reduce production costs.



Ian MacGregor: NCB result £300m better than forecast

The warning came as the NCB announced a transformation of its financial position with news of its best performance for seven years. Mr MacGregor said the industry lost £50 million in the last financial year, compared with £875 million in 1983-84, the last year to be unaffected by the miners' strike. The result was some £300 million better than the board forecast at the beginning of the financial year.

Shares in 25-point index rise

Pressure on the dollar continued yesterday, in spite of figures pointing to stronger growth for the American economy. Share prices in London notched one of their biggest one-day rises on the back of a stronger Wall Street.

The index of US leading indicators rose by 0.5 per cent last month, after a revised 0.9 per cent gain in February. Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, said: "Gains in the overall leading index have strengthened since mid-1985, indicating faster economic growth."

Elders loses court case over Lyons bid secrets

Elders IXL, the Australian brewing to agriculture group, yesterday lost its court battle to stop the Monopolies and Mergers Commission disclosing confidential information about its bid plans to Allied-Lyons, the target company.

Elders, which has until Friday to appeal, was waiting to see the written judgment, which is available today, before deciding what action to take. The chairman of Allied, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, expressed delight with the court decision.

ADR tax reduced to 1.5%

The Treasury yesterday responded to criticism of its controversial 5 per cent conversion tax on American Depository Receipts (ADRs) by reducing the rate to 1.5 per cent.

The reduction was announced by Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, during the second reading of the Finance Bill in the Commons.

More controversially, the CBI's monthly trends inquiry is now used by government statisticians to boost the monthly statistics of manufacturing output, whose initial downward bias has been a source of irritation to Treasury ministers: an intriguing example of government preference for private-sector information to the product of its own fact-finding machine.

Bank plays it safe with new debt market

The Government has finally given the go-ahead to the long-awaited sterling commercial paper market, allowing companies to issue short-term debt securities of between seven days and one year under their own name.

John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday told Parliament during the Finance Bill debate that the Banking Act restrictions on companies issuing their own debt instruments of less than one year would be swept away.

Companies allowed to issue commercial paper will only be those with a Stock Exchange listing and net assets of at least £50 million. Wholly-owned subsidiaries of such companies can issue paper as long as it is guaranteed by the parent. Banks, building societies and licensed deposit-takers, on the other hand, may not issue commercial paper on the grounds that they already have access to certificates of deposit. Their role will be limited to managing and guaranteeing commercial paper programmes.

No words over the figures

The Industrial Trends Survey, now published quarterly by the Confederation of British Industry, has acquired all the respectability suitable to a barometer which has just given its hundredth reading. The survey, based on questionnaires filled in by nearly 1,600 firms, has found its way into the corridors of official statistics. Its findings are incorporated into the Central Statistical Office's indices of longer-leading, shorter-leading and coincident indicators of the state of the British economy, as well as in the composite survey of business sentiment in Europe compiled by the European Commission.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, INTEREST RATES, and CURRENCIES. Lists various market indices and their values.

NatWest is top for lending controls, says survey

National Westminster Bank has the most effective lending controls of the big four clearing banks followed, surprisingly, by Midland, according to a review of bank lending published yesterday. The survey says the quality of banking controls is the best indicator of the quality of a bank's loan book, which has become of increasing concern over the last few years as bad debts have escalated.

Profits at an all time record of £27.4m

"I am delighted that the Board have been able to justify the support and confidence of shareholders. Profits have risen by 19.8% to an all time record of £27.4m (1984/85: £22.9m) and the proposed final dividend of 2.5p will bring the total dividend for the year to 4p per ordinary share (1984/85: 3.1p per share). I look to a satisfactory increase in earnings and dividend in the current year."

Table showing 1985/86 RESULTS for Tootal Group. Columns include Sales, Profit on ordinary activities before tax, Earnings per share, Dividends per share, and Return on capital employed. Values are compared for 1985/86 and 1984/85.

WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - Shares on the New York Stock Exchange advanced in early trading yesterday, with blue chips extending their rally...

average was up 8 points to 1,852, just below the closing of 1,855.90. Advances led by three to two on \$2.3 million shares traded...

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.25 points at 815.01, and utilities were down 1.44 points to 184.14.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.25 points at 815.01, and utilities were down 1.44 points to 184.14.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes entries like AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes entries like Amgen, Amgen, Amgen, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for various international locations.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table showing London commodity exchange prices for various goods.

COMMODITIES

Table showing commodity prices for various raw materials.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing money market rates and gold prices.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various currencies.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for various banks and terms.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices and market activity.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices for various instruments.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table showing investment trust prices and performance metrics.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table showing Canadian stock prices for various companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trust prices and performance metrics.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table providing detailed information on various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance data.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: مكدان الام

TEMPUS

Sir Eric keeps up the Tarmac momentum

For Tarmac the year to December 31 was a record one in which all divisions did better than in 1984. Pretax profits rose by 23 per cent to £135.2 million on turnover up 19 per cent to £1.6 billion.

Westbury

Mr Bob Joiner, who lives in the Bahamas, has good reason to kick himself. A year ago he sold Westbury, a West Country housebuilder, in a management buyout for just £12 million.

are plans to branch out into low-cost local authority housing and retirement homes. And the non-executive chairman, Mr David Winch, formerly of Tarmac, has plenty of acquisition ideas.

Tootal

Tootal promised its shareholders £27 million pretax profit for the year to January 31 as part of its defence against the unwelcome bid from Entrad, the Australian textile group.

The beneficiaries of this increase in value are the directors and the institutions who backed them. Most are taking the opportunity of the offer for sale to sell some of their holdings but the bulk of the shares on offer are being issued by the company to raise £12.9 million after expenses of £1.1 million.

This inflow of funds will have a dramatic effect on Westbury's balance sheet which would otherwise look stretched. Borrowings now stand at £20.2 million, up from £14.5 million in February, against shareholders' funds of £9.5 million.

The high level of borrowings reflects both the historical lack of retained earnings as a privately owned company and the size of the land bank. Assuming Westbury keeps up the same output as last year, when it built 1,700 houses, it owns enough land to see it through for nearly two-and-a-half years.

While this may suggest that Westbury is something of a punter on land prices, it is more efficient in its controls than the rest of its operation looks very solid. Margins are unusually high, given that half the output is aimed at the first-time buyer. Last year, profits before interest were £6.6 million, or 11.3 per cent of sales. Interest charges were £2.3 million, leaving the pretax total at £4.26 million.

There is no forecast for this year, but the company should continue to make progress. It expects to sell only 100 more houses but margins should rise as the company increases its exposure to the South-east and moves upmarket. It also plans to cut costs by £500,000 in the next two years.

Shareholders' loyalty was vindicated yesterday when Tootal announced a pretax profit of £27.4 million, 20 per cent above the 1984/5 result of £22.9 million.

The share price now stands at 102p, well above the 78p Entrad got for the sale of its holding when it finally abandoned its interest in Tootal towards the end of last year.

Approximately 50 per cent of textiles profits of £8.5 million was earned from the supply of waxed batik fabric, mainly to West Africa.

Excluding batik, Tootal's position in textiles is small but profitable.

Low cost sources are also important in the clothing sector where profits nearly doubled in 1985/6 to £3.9 million. In addition to supplying Marks and Spencer, Tootal manufactures and sells women'swear as the main activities.

Index soars by nearly 26 points

Institutional investors returned in force yesterday, encouraged by a firm Wall Street, the strong pound, hopes that the ADR tax penalty would be relaxed (it was) and the general health of the economy in the shape of falling inflation and cheaper borrowing.

reason, Wellcome recovered 6p to 191p ahead of Thursday's interim statement. In contrast, Beecham fell 8p to 405p as the ICI chairman dampened recent bid speculation. In firm electricals, GEC rose 14p to 208p as de Zoete recommended the shares to institutions.

shares were easily placed in Ferranti, 6p firmer at 134p. Wedgwood added 7p more to 375p on the rejection of the London International terms. Tozer Kemsley remained in favour at 171p, up 15p, but a recent newcomer, Lee International continued to decline at 156p, down 6p. The shares were offered at 180p.

United Newspapers spurted 28p to 373p after the annual report. Bumper profits lifted Barham 4p to 166p, while recent good figures helped Whatman Reeve to another 20p gain, at 295p. Speculative interest excited Fine Arts at 143p, up 11p and Alexon, 13p higher at 140p.

Enfranchisement hopes prompted another 30p advance in Gus "A" at 1,075p. Raters put on another 7p to 161p after recent comment. Good profits from Tostal, up 5.5p to 102p, helped other textiles into higher ground. Courtauld's, at 280p and Dawson, at 244p were among those to climb by 9p and 7p respectively.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, and COMPANY NEWS, listing various companies and their share prices.

UK fights for Euro office

The Government yesterday launched an aggressive campaign to win Britain its first permanent European Economic Community office with a list of 10 possible London sites for the community trade marks office.

COMPANY NEWS

NEWS LIMITED: The company's 50 per cent-owned computer services arm, Computer Power, has formed a joint venture with Western Australia's Ran Data Corporation, which will have Aus\$2.2 million (£1.05 million) of outside capital.

London listing for US Life

US Life Corporation, a life assurance company valued at \$850 million (£550 million) on the New York Stock Exchange, will obtain a London listing for its shares today.

UK NEWSPAPERS

The chairman, Mr D R Stevens, purchased 750,000 ordinary shares at 336p on April 23.

ALBANY INVESTMENT TRUST

Proposed one-for-one scrip issue, year to Feb. 28, 1986. Total dividend 1.5p (3p). Pretax profit £378,000 (£238,000). Earnings per share 3.75p (3.2p). Net asset value per share 132.75p (112.92p).

Estates & General INVESTMENTS PLC. Property Investment and Development. 1985 RESULTS table showing Profit before Taxation, Gross Rental Income, Investment Portfolio, Net Assets per Ordinary Stock Unit, and Dividend per Ordinary Stock Unit.

Redfearn recovery continues. By Richard Lander. Redfearn National Glass gave further confirmation of its recovery yesterday by declaring an interim dividend for the first time in four years.

Blue Circle Reports SET TO GAIN FROM IMPORTANT CHANGES. GROUP FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS table showing Turnover, Profit on Ordinary Activities before Tax, Group Share of Profit after Tax and before Extraordinary Items, Earnings per Share, and Ordinary Share before Extraordinary Items.

Redfearn National Glass "Real progress is being made" Interim Statement for 26 weeks ended 30 March 1986. Table showing Sales, Profit (loss) on ordinary activities before taxation, Profit (loss) on ordinary activities after taxation, Extraordinary items, Profit (loss) for the financial period, Profit (loss) per ordinary share, and Ordinary Dividend per share.

BASE LENDING RATES table listing rates for various banks and services: ABN, Adran & Company, BCCI, Citibank Savings, Commercial Union, Continental Trust, Co-operative Bank, C. Hoare & Co., Hong Kong & Shanghai, Lloyds Bank, Nat Westminster, Royal Bank of Scotland, TSB, Citibank NA, and Mortgage Base Rate.

UK: NEW CAULDON AND DUNBAR WORKS ON STREAM. Activities in the UK were hampered by severe weather which inhibited demand, and by dislocation of production and distribution from the construction work at both Cauldon and Dunbar which added to operating costs and largely contributed to the decline in UK cement profits.

ARMITAGE SHANKS: MORE US PROGRESS. Our sanitaryware subsidiary, Armitage Shanks, commissioned a new automated warehouse at Stokes-in-Trent and began production at the new plant in Mooresville, N. Carolina, US. The company is now a major manufacturer of bathroom ware in the US.

PEOPLE: BASIS OF SUCCESS. In recent years we have made progress in setting the Company on the path for a successful and increasingly profitable future. Much of the credit for this success is due to the people who work for us around the world.

Blue Circle Industries PLC. Portland House, Aldermaston, Berkshire RG7 4HP. ON THE MOVE, INTERNATIONALLY.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Sharp rise

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 28. Dealings end April May 9. Contango day May 12. Settlement day May 19. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code, Price, High, Low, Change, %

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

UNDATED table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

INDEX LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

ELECTRICALS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

HOTELS AND CATERERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

INDUSTRIALS E-K table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

INDUSTRIALS L-R table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

INDUSTRIALS M-P table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

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MINING table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

TEXTILES table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

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OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG table with columns: No., Company, Price, High, Low, Change, %

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c. £9,000

We are seeking a confident and experienced secretary to work for our Director, responsible for TV's wool promotion activities throughout the UK and Ireland.

In addition to the usual range of secretarial duties, you will be responsible for organising the Director's visiting programmes and travel itineraries, and also ensuring the smooth running of the office in his absence. First-class organisational skills are essential. Tact, discretion and the ability to deal effectively with senior people in the Textile industry, both by telephone and in person, are also key qualities.

You will probably be over 24 and have had at least 4 years post-secretarial college experience at middle and/or senior levels. A good educational background is important and preference will be given to candidates with O and A levels.

Our modern offices are situated close to Piccadilly/St. James's Park and we offer a starting salary of up to £9,000 p.a., LV's, 25 days holiday and free medical insurance cover.

Interested? Please write briefly, enclosing a CV, to: Miss L. Haig, International Wool Secretariat, Wool House, Carlton Gardens, London SW1

PURE NEW WOOL

DRAKE PERSONNEL
PA IN MARKET RESEARCH
£9,500

A lively personality is required to assist the head of Market Research in this busy organisation based in Mayfair. There will be interaction with clients and organisation of their needs. Generally you will be in charge of everything he does. You will need to be confident, have lots of initiative and enjoy being in a hectic environment.

If you have good typing skills (100/60) and have very good shorthand call: DRAKE on 734-8911

Elizabeth Hunt
LOTS TO LEARN
£9,000

Join the top firm of estate agents as secretary to a very pleasant young partner who has just joined them. He would like you to reorganise all admin systems, look after their reference library and learn how to maintain a computer based property record. 80 wpm audio ability needed and WP experience.

A CREATIVE CAREER
£10,500

Join this expanding, dynamic company leaders and innovators in the world of interior and product design and coordinate a busy department as secretary to a divisional managing director. 90/60 and WP skills needed. Beautiful W1 offices.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1 0F240 3531

Black Gold

Our client, an impressive international Company, offers an unparalleled opportunity to an ambitious Secretary, aged mid-late 20's, presently working at Manager/Director level.

Working for the Deputy Chairman, you will benefit from the extensive training provided by the Company, which will enable you to rise immediately to a 5 figure salary.

The atmosphere is dynamic, therefore impressive communication/PR skills are essential to liaise with clients and organise functions within the international petrochemical industry. The PA content is high, but good skills are essential.

To discuss this considerable opportunity and the salary telephone: 01-439 6477.

MacBlain
NASH-CITY

SWISS COTTAGE
NO SHORTHAND - £10,000

Charming MD of prestigious office furniture and system manufacturers with superb office requires an Executive Secretary with a good knowledge of French for occasional translations and telephone work. In addition to general secretarial work you will arrange his travel and diary together with the Director's (which will include WP (French given) if you are calm and alert with a good sense of humour 50+ wpm typing and audio skills please call:

434 4512
Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants
99 Regent Street W1

PA/SEC IN RACING

If you are in your mid 20's with admin experience, fast accurate shorthand and typing and a pleasant telephone manner then you may be just the person we are looking. Salary on application.

Tel: 01-405 5346 ext. 55

DRAKE PERSONNEL
ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP OF THE ARTS SECRETARY/PA TO THE DIRECTOR

SALARY NEGOTIABLE FROM £8,000

The Director of ABSA seeks a full time Executive Secretary/PA with first class secretarial and administrative ability and experience. Excellent shorthand, audio typing and word processing skills are required.

ABSA, a registered charity is the national association promoting the concept and practice of business sponsorship of the arts. The successful candidate will have an interest in the arts and their funding, personal initiative and enthusiasm and the ability to work under pressure with people at a senior level in business and the arts. This is a very responsible position, working directly for the Association's Director within a small and friendly team.

Applications in writing with full cv by 14th May 1986 to The Director, ABSA, 2 Chester Street, London SW1X 7BB

FLAIR FOR MARKETING £10,000
This International Advertising Agency seeks a PA/Assistant to work alongside him on exciting, new marketing projects. If you are a good organiser, have excellent presentation and a lively sense of humour, this could be the position for you. Skills: 90/60. Age 25+

Front-Line Advertising £8,500
Are you a whizz-kid with Word Processing and the latest office technology? If so, this job is definitely for you. This young and expanding agency needs a bright, hard working shorthand secretary who will use her excellent WP skills. Skills: 90/60. Age 25+

Public Relations £8,500
This well known PR company is looking for a secretary to an excellent WP secretary. Proud of your skills and your flair for Word Processing, you will be responsible for the day to day administration of this top agency. For someone who is a naturally happy and devoted secretary, the benefits are all yours. Skills: Fast accurate typist. Age 21+

HAZELL STATION
8 Golden Square, London W1
Tel: 01-430 6021

MEDIA FINANCE SALES MARKETING PERSONNEL

DRAKE PERSONNEL
CONFERENCES AND ADVERTISING
£9,500 (Languages an asset)

The vibrant division of this international company sells your entrepreneurial potential. Enjoy setting-up international conferences and using the progress through your own writing to deadlines and respond to the dynamics and pressure of your company and colleagues.

Web typing 2000 and a strong personality call: SUE ROBERTS on 01 521 9566

TRAVEL PR £8,500
Leading West End PR company need two secretaries to join busy team dealing with travel and leisure accounts.

Plenty of involvement and lots of scope for development in a fast moving, creative atmosphere.

01-499 6566
01-493 8383

CROSVENOR
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

We are a progressively expanding electronic company based in Fife with commuting distance of Edinburgh. We seek the professional services that only a top grade PA aged 25 - 30 and currently on a salary in excess of £8,000 can give to this Managing Director. You will have sound administrative and commercial flair plus the usual secretarial skills. If you have these qualities and are interested in furthering your career opportunities please apply in writing with full CV to the Personnel Department, Highland Electronics Ltd, Helix Industrial Estate, Dunfermline Fife

434 4512
Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants
99 Regent Street W1

STRATEGIC POSITION
£12,000

The dynamic Chief Executive of a successful, rapidly expanding company requires a highly motivated and energetic person for a prestigious client's needs. Responsibilities include organising presentations and functions, liaising with clients, recruitment and office management as well as general secretarial duties. Skills of 100/60, smart presentation and good educational background essential. Age 27-35. Please ring:

434 4512
Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND/AUDIO TYPIST

Required to work at Senior Executive level for Property Company.

Aged 22-30. 4 weeks hol per annum. Salary circa £9,000.

Applications in writing to:
THE COMPANY SECRETARY THE WILLIAM PEARS GROUP,
27 VICTORIA SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1W 0RD.

Banking P.A.
£13,000 + Benefits

The MD of this major banking corporation - City-based - is looking for an exceptional graduate PA. You will need to have worked at a comparable level for several years in order to have the expertise, knowledge and confidence for this top appointment. Preferred age 30-40 with skills of 120/60

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET W1 01-629 7262

Public Relations
£10,000

Consumer and High-Tech P R Top Design Consultancy Financial and City P R

We have vacancies in all these areas for people with good secretarial skills and preferably some previous experience gained in a similar environment. Lots of opportunity and lots of fun in really top-class companies!

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET W1 01-629 7262

CHELSEA ESTATE AGENTS Secretary/Negotiator

Required for busy flat letting department. Experience in property is essential but not essential. The successful applicant will probably be between 25 & 35 a car driver with knowledge of the Chelsea area. Please apply to:

14 H Thomas
Mistral 01 351 3131

SEC TO SALES MANAGER
£9,000-£9,500

100/60 wpm (European language) solid lots of client liaison. Very involved, prestigious position. Well equipped with good skills, sales experience. Full cv to person in the RPA. Tel: Mary Mann at Delia (Personnel secretary) on 01 529 7165

INTERNATIONAL BANK
£12,000 + M/G

The Chairman of the European arm of an expanding international bank with a major presence in the world's three main financial centres, requires a professional PA. As well as organising his busy schedule and liaising with clients world wide, he will rely on you to become fully involved in the business of the bank. Your senior-level experience in the financial world, combined with first-class administrative skills will enable you to excel in this demanding role.

Skills 100/60 Age 25-35

CITY OFFICE
726 8491
ANGELA MORTIMER

FRENCH AND SPANISH

If your English, French and Spanish are on a par, there is a chance to be made. You could work at top level in corporate finance in Mayfair. You'd be between 25 and 35, have up-to-date skills including English shorthand and translated and well-educated and worth between £9,500 and £11,500. Alternatively, a financial consultant in Covent Garden needs someone with English and French shorthand plus fluent Spanish, for their Managing Director. Lots of opportunity and excitement. A financial consultant in Covent Garden needs someone with English and French shorthand plus fluent Spanish, for their Managing Director. Lots of opportunity and excitement. A financial consultant in Covent Garden needs someone with English and French shorthand plus fluent Spanish, for their Managing Director. Lots of opportunity and excitement.

Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Ltd
32-34 Wigmore Street
London W1H 0HU

PA 8 MONTH CONTRACT

Lord Nandan requires PA from 1st July 1986, during permanent PA's maternity leave. Age 30-45. Graduate or A levels required. Very varied work including House of Lords, Commons, Royal Commission and other organisations.

Please ring 01-628 7350.

LA CREME DE LA CREME



Personal Assistant to the Lord Mayor of London

Circa £9,500 pa

This is an opportunity to work in the Mansion House as Personal Assistant to the Lord Mayor of London. The post is a key member of the small and permanent staff who support the Lord Mayor during his term of office. The successful candidate must have a high standard of secretarial skills, a flexible approach to work and the personal qualities to blend into this busy team. A non-smoker would be preferred. The salary is in a range of £9,300 to £10,200 together with certain benefits. Please apply in writing with your C.V. by Friday, 9th May, to: The Private Secretary to The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, The Mansion House, London EC4N 8BH.

WANG OPERATOR AND SECRETARY FOR PROPERTY TEAM

Young and lively Mayfair based firm require a first class Wang operator to cope with a high volume of work and a variety of tasks. The ideal person will be aged 19-22 with fast accurate typing and impeccable English. An enthusiastic audio secretary is also required to work for two members of our professional department. Good typing speeds essential. Preferred age 20-23. These positions providing a good opportunity in a go ahead environment for self motivated people with a flexible approach who want to work in pleasant surroundings. Phone 629 6501, reference AE (No agencies)

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

We need someone who has plenty of personality, a good sense of humour and is adaptable. It will be assumed that you have sound secretarial skills (WP experience useful but not essential), a good telephone manner, be well presented, organised and capable of dealing with pleasant customers. You will need to be self motivated, have confidence in making your own decisions and be capable of working under pressure or enjoy the slack moments too. A background in consultancy work and a familiarity with Scandinavian languages would be useful. We think you will need to be 30+ to cope, and the remuneration will be awarded according to age and experience. Those who work only 9-5 need not apply. Teresa Chichester, New Horizons, 01-499 9192.

COURSE ADMINISTRATOR

The Institute of Personnel Management at Wimbledon Common require a Course Administrator to provide a complete administrative service to ensure the smooth running of all short courses. Duties include booking suitable venues, arranging printing of brochures, liaising with speakers and lecturers, preparing courses. The position requires someone with an outgoing, unassuming personality and an aptitude for detail and organisation. Experience in a similar environment and the ability to work on a flexible basis will be an advantage. Starting immediately, the successful applicant will be offered a permanent position. Salary £9,000 + benefits include a free staff restaurant and transport from Wimbledon Station. For application form, please telephone Albert Jago, 01-946 9100 or write to: The Institute of Personnel Management, 194 House, Wimbledon, London SW19 6LW

SECRETARY/PA

These opportunities for a younger secretary on the way up to join a team handling major fund-raising programmes for a leading charity. The Director of the fund has the following to offer: a first class PA with good secretarial skills and ability to deal with a wide range of industry and social contacts. The role is rewarding and enjoyable with a real opportunity for career advancement in an interesting and variable job. Other in West End. Approximate salary by negotiation. Please send brief CV to: Michael Waldman, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EF.

OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

Must use WP and have s/h for new Design Company based in the City. This is a position suited to a mature good organiser with experience. Good career prospects and a starting salary of £11,000 p.a. Telephone: 01-231 8761 for interview.

Wanted Private Medical Secretary / PA

Two consultants in Harley Street area. Medical experience essential. References required. Salary £10,000 Per Annum. Tel 01-486 5787.

SECRETARY

For partner in Mayfair Estate Agency. Good shorthand/typing cover in office. 28+ salary £9,500 plus bonus. 01-491 2959 VLP

CHAIRMAN'S SEC £10,000+ MORTGAGE

City investment Co with expert offices close Cannon Road. We are seeking a competent S.H. to support our Chairman & 4 Mgrs. The job involves extensive client contact, telephone work and organisation. Salary £10,000. Age 22+. 3885

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Your first job is very important and we can offer you a wide variety of opportunities in the fields of Art and Interior Design. Why not come and see us and let us help you make the right choice. Please call: 437 6032

HOBSTONES

SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR A DESIGN AND MARKETING GROUP IN LONDON W6

Leading design-manufacturing marketing group concerned with high performance office interiors require a creative professional to support a small but growing team. Must be smart, personable and communicative. Preferred age 25-30. London based. Commensurate salary £5,000 plus. Write with CV to: Lorraine Cummins, Office Kit Limited, The Mill, Millers Way, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7NL. (NO AGENCIES)

DRAKE PERSONNEL

ADMIN IN MARKETING £9,500
If you are looking for a chance to move out of a secretarial role into a more challenging and dynamic environment, then we have an exciting opportunity for you. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the marketing department, liaising with clients and suppliers, and ensuring that all marketing materials are produced to a high standard. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, with good communication skills and a proven ability to work under pressure. The role offers a real opportunity for career progression. Please apply with full CV and a recent photograph to: DRAKE PERSONNEL, 100, Balcony Street, London W11. 01-295 6581.

EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGE(S)

(Export Liaison)
For Headquarters of major British export group (Central London). We require a bilingual (English/Polish) candidate for the post of Export Liaison. The successful candidate will be responsible for liaising with Polish clients and suppliers, and ensuring that all export documentation is completed to a high standard. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, with good communication skills and a proven ability to work under pressure. The role offers a real opportunity for career progression. Please apply with full CV and a recent photograph to: DRAKE PERSONNEL, 100, Balcony Street, London W11. 01-295 6581.

EXPERIENCED SENIOR SECRETARY

Experienced senior secretary with growing PA responsibilities, essential to the President of international nonprofit research institution concerned with Third World development and environmental issues. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the secretarial department, liaising with clients and suppliers, and ensuring that all secretarial services are provided to a high standard. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, with good communication skills and a proven ability to work under pressure. The role offers a real opportunity for career progression. Please apply with full CV and a recent photograph to: DRAKE PERSONNEL, 100, Balcony Street, London W11. 01-295 6581.

Senior Secretary in style £12,000 + extra benefits

Top level Managerial Director of the international relations industry is looking for a high calibre secretarial/PA, working in a busy office in Mayfair. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the secretarial department, liaising with clients and suppliers, and ensuring that all secretarial services are provided to a high standard. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, with good communication skills and a proven ability to work under pressure. The role offers a real opportunity for career progression. Please apply with full CV and a recent photograph to: DRAKE PERSONNEL, 100, Balcony Street, London W11. 01-295 6581.

SECRETARY/PA Salary £9,500-£10,000

Small Mayfair based chemical consulting company seeks secretary/PA (graduate level) with 24+ Good secretarial skills required (09/85), with a knowledge of word processing essential (Macintosh/IBM PC preferred). The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and to undertake a range of administrative tasks: reception, telephone, letters etc. Non-smoker preferred. Please write with CV to: Mr S Harriman, 3 Cork Street, London W1X 1HA. Telephone 01-437 6244.

ADVERTISING SW1. £5,500

Challenging opportunity for ambitious PA (24+) urgently needed to assist this young team promoting leading travel company. Good secretarial skills. Call Anna Manners 01-493 3065 (REC.006)

CHelsea ESTATE AGENTS

Require enthusiastic, well presented efficient Secretary with a pleasing personality. Good telephone manner and accurate typing essential. The right person will be rewarded with a good salary. Please telephone Susan Page on 01-584 6391

RENTALS

LONDON, W2
Good conversion flat with neutral decorations & modern furnishings. 2 bedrooms, double reception, modern kitchen & bathroom. A valuable immediately for 12 months. £190 per week. Notting Hill Office: 01-221 3500

WIDE RANGE OF QUALITY FURNISHED AND UNFURNISHED PROPERTIES
Full Management Service

CHESTERTONS
RESIDENTIAL
* Legal/Tax Advice
* Personalized Service through 7 computer linked offices

CLAVERTON STREET, SW1
A beautiful, newly decorated and furnished one bedroom flat. Reception room, double bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. Available immediately for long Company let. £140 per week. Finance Officer: 01-834 9988

Hampton & Sons

FURNISHED RENTALS
SLOANE STREET SW1
Recently renovated and furnished flat in an elegant block in Sloane Street and with the use of modern appliances. 2 bedrooms, Reception room, 3 bathrooms, fitted kitchen, central heating, double garage. £200 p.w.

PARADISE WALK SW13
Beautifully furnished and fully equipped flat in a quiet residential area. 2 bedrooms, Reception room, fitted kitchen, central heating, double garage. £170 p.w.

CADOGAN GARDENS SW11
Excellent detached flat in the beautiful location of Cadogan Gardens. 2 bedrooms, Reception room, fitted kitchen, central heating, double garage. £180 p.w.

KINNETON STREET SW11
Excellent detached flat in a quiet residential area. 2 bedrooms, Reception room, fitted kitchen, central heating, double garage. £170 p.w.

A SELECTION FROM OUR REGISTER
6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RB 01-493 8222

BLANCHARD ESTATES

178 Sloane Street, London SW1
RENTAL AGENTS
Exclusive Properties : Exceptional Service :
Expert Advice
Tel: 01-245 6811

JEAN WILLIAMS LTD

01-949 2482
REDUCTION GARDENS, SW5. Superb 3 bed flat overlooking the park. 2 bedrooms, Reception room, fitted kitchen, central heating, double garage. £180 p.w.

OWNERS WITH PROPERTY TO LET

In Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, Putney, Clapham, Wimbledon, Richmond. Full management service by arrangement.
Tel: 01-873 5655

South Kensington, SW7

Beautiful 4th floor flat with lift in lovely conversion. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en-suite), fitted kitchen, double garage. £1,225 1972.

Palace Properties

We have a superb selection of personally managed luxury properties in many of London's prime areas. Properties ranging from £2,000 per week to £10,000 per week. Call us for details. Tel: 01-486 8925

RENTALS

WIMBORNE Wiltshire. Superb 3 bedroom detached house with 2 bathrooms, double garage, landscaped garden. £1,200 p.w.

WATFORD Herts. Excellent 3 bedroom detached house with 2 bathrooms, double garage, landscaped garden. £1,200 p.w.

AMERICAN SPECIALISTS are offering a superb selection of properties in many of London's prime areas. Properties ranging from £2,000 per week to £10,000 per week. Call us for details. Tel: 01-486 8925

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South Kensington, SW7

Beautiful 4th floor flat with lift in lovely conversion. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en-suite), fitted kitchen, double garage. £1,225 1972.

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Tel: 01-873 5655

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Beautiful 4th floor flat with lift in lovely conversion. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en-suite), fitted kitchen, double garage. £1,225 1972.

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WATFORD Herts. Excellent 3 bedroom detached house with 2 bathrooms, double garage, landscaped garden. £1,200 p.w.

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PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE LONDON PROPERTIES

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Advertisement for a development by Berkley House Ltd in conjunction with Klass Developments Ltd. Prices from £250,000. Includes details of 9 freehold houses on the borders of Epsom and Chelsea.

Lloyds Bank Home Loan Rate.

With effect from Monday, 2 June 1986, our Home Loan Rate will be reduced from 12 per cent p.a. to 11 per cent p.a., APR 11.7 per cent. New endowment and repayment Home Loans will be offered at our Home Loan rate from Thursday, 1 May 1986.

Lloyds Bank logo and contact information for London Office: 34 Brook Street, London W1, Tel: 01-491 7050.

More than two hoots for a lordly estate

The Owls Hall estate, set in 200 acres near Enfield only 15 miles from London and formerly the home of Lord Matthews, is for sale at about £1.5 million through Hampton and Sons.



Manor Farm House, in Hovingham, near York, is a fine 17th-century stone manor house, believed to be the oldest house in the village. The house, which needs modernization, is of local historical and architectural importance.

The search for sites

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

Barratt's new development in Fulham, which will provide both luxury houses and workshops, is interesting not only because it shows the largest volume builder pursuing its changed course of high-quality, high-cost housing but because it demonstrates the way in which inner-city sites can be developed.

Lane Fox & Partners Rylands advertisement. Features properties in Hampshire, West Sussex, and London. Includes contact information for 36 North Audley St., London W1Y 2EL.

UNASHAMED LUXURY advertisement. Features large flats and penthouses with river views. Contact: Alan Selby & Partners, Tel: 01-986 9431.

Winkworth MORTGAGES advertisement. Terms now available: 3 1/2 times income or 2 1/2 times joint income. Contact: Ring 01-235 0691.

Cromwell's secret spot advertisement. Features an eleven-strand on the Green, Chiswick, with a river frontage on the Thames. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

The Brick House at Wicken advertisement. Features a 17th-century manor house and 426-acre farm. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

A Hardy pastime advertisement. Features Kirland Manor at Bodmin, Cornwall. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

Conveyancing by City Solicitors advertisement. For buying or selling your home in the usual way, we charge £280 (+ V.A.T. and disbursements). Contact: 49 Queen Victoria St, London EC4.

VIP ESTATE SERVICES advertisement. Buying a house or an apartment in London but can't spare the time and effort? Contact: Tel: 01-740 6327.

YORK HOUSE advertisement. A magnificent 3rd floor flat with views over Kensington Palace Gardens. Contact: RUSSELL SIMPSON, Tel: 01-584 7878.

LITTLE VENICE advertisement. A beautiful 4 bedroom manor house with 10 acres of land. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

A major mortgage breakthrough from the Midland. £1,000,000 available. Midland Homeowner Plus takes care of all the ins and outs of a mortgage in one complete package.



Midland Homeowner Plus takes care of all the ins and outs of a mortgage in one complete package. It shows we're in the mortgage market in a big way. This year, we're making one billion pounds available for mortgages.

You get the Midland Mortgage Certificate. This agrees your mortgage for the amount stated, provided the property is suitable. It's almost like being a cash buyer. But that's just a part of the package.

1/2 off your mortgage interest rate for one year. This is worth £84.00 before tax relief. WE'VE BEEN LISTENING.

MIDLAND HOMEOWNER PLUS

2a Kidderpore Avenue advertisement. Moments from the Village. A highly individual newly built detached home. Contact: Tel: 01-235 0691.

HAPPY EVENT advertisement. Complete, programmed to suit larger house. Contact: Tel: 01-624 7679.

TULI & WOE advertisement. LONDON'S FLAT FINDERS. We can find the properties that you can't find. Contact: Tel: 01-486 3832.

ATTRACTIVE SW12 advertisement. 2 bedroom flat in a "period" conversion. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES advertisement. ARCHITECT DESIGNED NEW TERRACE HOUSE. To very high standard. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

EAST SHEEN advertisement. Close to Richmond Park. Immaculate 3 bedroom house. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

2200 CONVEYANCING advertisement. For buying or selling your home we charge a flat fee of £200 (+ VAT & Disbursements). Contact: PEARCE & DAVIS, Tel: 01-472 2652/3.

PONT STREET SW1 advertisement. A ground floor flat completely refurbished at a cost of £50,000. Contact: Tel: 01-730 8415.

YOTTERRIDGE COMMON advertisement. Complete, programmed to suit larger house. Contact: Tel: 01-624 7679.

SEALING WIS advertisement. 2 bed flat in central London. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

EAST SHEEN advertisement. Close to Richmond Park. Immaculate 3 bedroom house. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

BLenheim CRESENT W11 advertisement. A brilliant garden mansion with 32h reception room with natural waxed wood floor. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

PIMLICO SW1 advertisement. Enchanting house on two floors. Large living room, double doors, two showers. Contact: Tel: 01-834 0178.

LITTLE VENICE advertisement. Beautiful 4 bedroom manor house with 10 acres of land. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

SEALING WIS advertisement. 2 bed flat in central London. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

LANCASTER GATE W2 advertisement. Exclusive 2 bedroom apartment with 24h concierge. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

W22 advert. 1 bed ground floor flat with parking. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

LITTLE VENICE advertisement. Beautiful 4 bedroom manor house with 10 acres of land. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

SEALING WIS advertisement. 2 bed flat in central London. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE advertisement. 3-4 bed magnificent new build. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

W22 advert. 1 bed ground floor flat with parking. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

LITTLE VENICE advertisement. Beautiful 4 bedroom manor house with 10 acres of land. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

SEALING WIS advertisement. 2 bed flat in central London. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

CHISWICK W4 advertisement. Semi detached 1930's house in immaculate condition. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

W22 advert. 1 bed ground floor flat with parking. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

LITTLE VENICE advertisement. Beautiful 4 bedroom manor house with 10 acres of land. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

SEALING WIS advertisement. 2 bed flat in central London. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

MAYFAIR advertisement. Recently modernized 3rd floor 2 bedroom luxury flat. Contact: Tel: 01-874 2222.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Spanish aid to finance a home on the Costa

By Diana Wildman

As Anglo-Spanish ties continue to strengthen, since last week's state visit to Britain by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia and the merging of interests caused by Spain's entry into the EEC, the idea of a holiday home purchase in Spain is proving attractive again.

Prices have risen sharply, particularly along the Costa del Sol, since the lifting of UK exchange controls in 1979, resulting in more UK buyers requiring a mortgage.

Bank of Bilbao's City of London branch has been financing private property investment in Spain for the last five years. The bank can arrange loans from £5,000, which are granted for a maximum 10 years, using the Spanish purchase as collateral.

Roger Knights of Banco de Bilbao says: "Finance is available for up to 60 per cent of the home's value at current interest rates of 4 per cent above UK base rate, or, in the case of security offered in the UK, 3 per cent over base. Though finance is made available for properties already built, loans can be authorized, in principle, for individual purchases within new developments under construction."

Marbella and neighbouring Puerto Banus continue to prove popular with the leisured rich. The property choice is huge, not least because some developers over-estimated demand after the 1983 sales boom.

Today, more and more buyers, especially those intending to spend some months holidaying each year, prefer to live in a more tranquil environment but still be near the coast.

Las Terrazas, a delightful development of apartments being built on a hillside five kilometres above San Pedro de Alcántara, has the dual advantages of being a 10-minute drive from the Marbella Club while enjoying a rural setting. It has southerly views over the Mediterranean from its position among the rolling foothills of the Sierra Blanca.

The first block of 24 units is completed and all are sold, while the 25 apartments in the second phase are due for staged completion this June, July and September. The scheme has been designed in traditional Spanish style with old roof tiles being incorporated in a seemingly haphazard way creating an illusion of an Andalusian cluster pueblo - the more so as every home has a different-sized balcony or terrace with the larger ones wrapped around two sides of the apartment.

The developer of Las Terrazas, Paul Simard, aims to have no two homes alike



The pleasing architectural style of this small apartment complex gives an air of tranquillity, which is in stark contrast to the frenetic jet-setting lifestyle of Marbella just a 10-minute drive away. One, two and three bedroom flats are for sale from £46,304 to £84,000

so the individualist has plenty of choice. Provided building is not too far advanced, off-plan buyers can choose the floor tiles, bathroom fittings and kitchen style they prefer. The apartments have fitted wardrobes in all bedrooms, there is a bathroom for every bedroom and marble flooring is standard. All have working fireplaces and central heating can be installed if required.

The vast swimming pool, set in gardens overlooked by the apartments, and its adjacent clubhouse is due for completion early this summer and the first of three tennis courts will be started by late summer.

Mr Simard offers both a management and rental service and a full interior-design facility. Eighteen one, two and three bedroom homes are for sale - at £46,304 for the only one-bedroom unit available, between £49,100 and £66,800 for two bedrooms and £71,800 and £84,000 for three bedrooms.

Details are available from Las Terrazas, Urb. Hacienda El Amendo, Box 422, San Pedro de Alcántara, Marbella (MA), tel: (952) 782291, (952) 774091; Harrods Estate Office, 12 Brompton Place, London SW3 1QE, tel: 01-589 1490; Portospan Ltd, 241 Kings Road, London SW3, tel: 01-351 3135

In total contrast to the sophisticated Las Terrazas and its environs is the bustling coastal town of Benalmadena,

just eight kilometres west of Malaga's international airport. Here, Chestertons are selling harbourside homes at the new Marina Benalmadena, which is two minutes' walk from the main shopping centre but situated in a self-contained environment overlooking the marina, which is already complete.

Forty-eight of the 140 apartments planned for the first phase are being built at the edge of the marina and are grouped around a central square, which will have small shops, bars and restaurants.

The plan is for the plaza to be traffic-free. Most homes will have sea views and the scheme is adjacent to a sandy beach for the use of residents. Eventually it will have its own club house.

There will be 550 homes grouped in clusters around the marina and part of the plan is to create four linked islands, each with its own pueblo within the inner harbour. Marina Benalmadena has been designed to recreate the feel of an Andalusian fishing village and berths will be available for purchase.

Because of this area's appeal to the package holiday market, the rental return should be good. Chestertons expect great interest from the long-term retirement market because the marina is close to the town centre with all its facilities, including a clinic and a bus route.

Chestertons Residential is at 116 Kensington High Street, London W8 7RW, tel: 01-937 7244.

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Advertisement for Canchada Nielsen, SOUTH OF SPAIN, featuring properties in Puerto Adu and Los Hidalgos. Includes contact information for Aberdeen and Glasgow offices.

ESTATE IN PORTUGAL: 132 hectares cultivated farming with a newly built habitation and a big barn situated near BEJA for sale. Price £150,000.

VILLARS - SWITZERLAND: Imagine an exclusive resort, just 70 minutes from Geneva... Sunbathing... skiing... swimming... golf... horse-riding... superb restaurants & shops.

ALGARVE: Rocha Brava, Carvoeiro. 100% built by the developer. 100% built by the developer. 100% built by the developer.

LANZAROTE: 2-bedroom lux villa. Fully furnished. Excellent management. Pool, tennis. Near village, sea, 4-week time-share for £10,000 for 3 years.

MARBELLA COSTA DEL SOL: The Gem of Europe's most beautiful coastline. Personal, Professional Service with all safeguards. Continuous Inspection Flights.

FRANCE: N.W. FRANCE or Sale of Domaine. 100% built by the developer. 100% built by the developer.

BALEARICS: MENORCA 2300 sq ft. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 2 balconies. 2 terraces. 2 swimming pools.

PORTUGAL: ALGARVE. Deal direct with developer. 100% built by the developer. 100% built by the developer.

SWITZERLAND: MARIBELLE. Fully furnished luxury 2 bedroom apartment. Excellent location. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 2 balconies.

ESSEX: DEBHAM. Essex. Impressive country house offering elegant & comfortable accommodation. 100% built by the developer.

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SOUTH OF THE THAMES: MONTAIGNE. Close to the old town of Canterbury. 100% built by the developer.

OLD CHURCH ST CHELSEA: Attractive terraced flat in charming modern off street development. 100% built by the developer.

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE: W1 LUXURY PENTHOUSE. 117 year lease, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 100% built by the developer.

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PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE OVERSEAS PROPERTY. Continued on page 28.

PROPRTY BUYERS' GUIDE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

LOWER RATES FROM THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

The Royal Bank of Scotland's mortgage rate to new and existing borrowers will be reduced to 11%, 11.75% APR with effect from 1 May 1986.

And if you want more from a mortgage here are a few points worth remembering.

- We can give you up to three times your salary and one times a second salary. And we give mortgages up to 95%. We can give mortgages on first homes, second family homes or holiday homes. We can give you a mortgage to improve the home you're already in. We can offer competitive interest rates.

For written details call in at any Royal Bank of Scotland branch. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Security, life insurance and a current account will be required. APR shown is typical for a £20,000 loan over 25 years.



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registered office: 35 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

Strutt & Parker

SURREY - MOLE VALLEY. Stoke D'Abernon 1 1/2 miles (Waterloo 3 miles). Cottages and Listerland 2 1/2 miles. M25 4 miles.

BERKSHIRE. Adjacent to Windsor Great Park. A spacious well fitted house in landscaped gardens and wooded grounds.

JOHN D WOOD

HAMBLE RIVER OLD BURSLEDON. An American style cottage with an attractive lodge commanding one of the finest positions on the Hamble on the River.

BATH AWARD-WINNING NORTHERNGER COURT

Renowned for its quality and fine finish, completion by owner. The house has been built to the highest standards of quality.

CALCOT HEIGHTS

Reading, Berkshire. An exclusive development of 8 superbly appointed houses set in a superbly landscaped park.

SCOTCHBROOKS

Exquisite 2 1/2 floor, Reading. Telephone 0734 585181

SOMERSET & AVON

EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL PANEL. A group of 2000 properties. C.H. 5000 properties. C.H. 5000 properties.

SURREY

EPSON 1000 computer. A group of 2000 properties. C.H. 5000 properties.

All classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. (except Announcements). The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEON APPELBY WATCHMAKER. Over 34 years in St. John Street, Cheltenham. 15 St. John Street, Cheltenham. Tel: 01235 251111.

SERVICES

GENIA RESTORATION COURSE. Comprehensive courses for dentists. Tel: 01-535 8148.

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS. Special offers. Tel: 01-835 8148.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

IT'S ALL AT TRAIL FINDERS. More low-cost flights to more destinations than any other agency.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

THE PIANO WORKSHOP. London's leading specialist in pianos. Tel: 01-770 2072.

PROPERTY WANTED

LANDS AVAILABLE TO BUILD. Tel: 01-433 0974.

MORTGAGES

100% Mortgages available. Tel: 01-267 3122.

NEW HOMES

WITCHCOMBE - Excellent 4 bedroomed house. Tel: 0271 870791.

WILTSHIRE

COLLEGE FARMHOUSE. 7 1/2 acre, Chiswick. Tel: 0271 870791.

PERSONAL

WANTED. WREXHAM. Telephone 01493 20000. Tel: 01493 20000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTERNATIVE CONTRACTORS. Interested in furthering scientific knowledge. Tel: 01-433 0974.

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS. Special offers. Tel: 01-835 8148.

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MAY SPECIALS

Palma 9/5 £ 7 71. Faro 18/5 £ 8 86. Malaga 10/5 £ 8 98. Crete 8/5 £ 10 03.

UP UP & AWAY

Nejib, Jo'ong, Cairo, Dubai, Istanbul, Singapore, K.L. Delhi, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Sydney, Europe, & the Americas.

CHEAPEST FLIGHTS W/HERE

London to Paris, Rome, Athens, etc. Tel: 01-433 0974.

RESISTA CARPETS

Special offers. Tel: 01-835 8148.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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Antiques & Collectables

OLD WRISTWATCHES WANTED. ROLEX, RICHIE, CANTIER, PATEK PHILIPPE, JAEGER LEVISO. Tel: 01-433 0974.

AMERICAN BUYERS SEEK

Seeking American buyers for various goods. Tel: 01-433 0974.

BENTLEY & CO

Diamonds and Diamond Jewellery. Tel: 01-433 0974.

BRIAN LOOMES

Real Estate Services. Tel: 01-433 0974.

Spink

Buy War Medals. Tel: 01-433 0974.

FASHION DESIGNER REQUIRES HOUSEKEEPER

Seeking a housekeeper for a fashion designer. Tel: 01-433 0974.

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Recruitment services. Tel: 01-433 0974.

MERCEDES DEALERS

Mercedes dealers. Tel: 01-433 0974.

MERCEDES BENZ 190E

Mercedes Benz 190E. Tel: 01-433 0974.

PERFORMANCE CARS

Performance cars. Tel: 01-433 0974.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Managing Director position. Tel: 01-433 0974.

Telephone: 01-583 8433. ask for JOHN HARVEY

FOOTBALL

Bingham adds balance and strength to the class of '82

By Clive White

Billy Bingham, the Northern, Ireland manager, announced his World Cup squad for Mexico yesterday and declared it was stronger all round than the one that excelled itself in Spain four years ago...

The squad is stronger all round with a nice balance between experience and youth. Bingham said, "Nine of them are under the age of 23 and have all come through our youth training sessions or what I call our squeezing-the-lemon system..."

Real look forward to UEFA final

Madrid (Reuters) - Real Madrid go in search of their eighth European trophy tonight when they are at home to Cologne in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final...

Waregem face further investigation

Zurich (Reuters) - Waregem, the Belgian club, face further investigation over their staging of the UEFA Cup semi-final against Cologne...

Two new faces in Bearzot's Mexico squad

Milan (Reuters) - The manager of Italy, Enzo Bearzot, yesterday included eight players who helped Italy win the 1982 World Cup in his 22-man squad for Mexico...

Yesterday's results

Table of football results including First Division, Scottish First Division, and various cup matches.

ATHLETICS



At 33, Moorcroft knows his chances of being No 1 again are limited.

Moorcroft sees humorous side to his gold quest

Two years of injuries, and a last place in the Olympic 5,000 metres final for then world record holder, have not diminished Dave Moorcroft's sense of humour...

Last attempt

The pelvic injury which caused most of his problems in the last two years, including the Olympic final, was operated on last summer, and has completely healed, but Moorcroft admits that at 33 years of age this is probably his last attempt to get back into competition with the very best in the world...

RUGBY UNION

Scottish call depletes Kelso

Kelso will be severely depleted when they appear in the finals of the Scottish Sevens on Saturday. They have five players with Scotland's touring team tomorrow before going on to four games against French regional teams over the next fortnight...

FOR THE RECORD

Table containing sports records for Baseball, Ice Hockey, Real Tennis, Tennis, American League, and Cricket.

BOXING

Andries will go all out in his quest for the world

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

The classic boxing confrontation should unfold when the fighter-boxer, Dennis Andries, of Britain, meets the boxer-fighter, J.B. Williamson, of the United States, the World Boxing Council's light-heavyweight champion at Picketts Lock, Edmonton, North London tonight...

Squash Rackets

S Africans snubbed by Devoy

Susan Devoy, the New Zealand woman who last week won her third successive British Open title, has turned down an offer to play in South Africa. As world champion, she feels she would run into the sort of political row which now surrounds those of her countrymen who are involved in the latest 'rebel' rugby tour...

Pat Butcher

So important did the South Africans consider the move that Eddie Barlow, the former Derbyshire and South African cricketer who now runs South Africa's Sports Office in London, interrupted a working visit to South Africa, and flew back to England to assist Emalie...

Medical discovery

"This is naturally told him. With my friend was Mr. F.C. Palmer, a chemist and physiologist, a Norwich."

Medical discovery

"This gentleman at once convincingly said, 'I will put your eyes right,' handing me a bottle of his recent medical discovery, Navite, and requesting me to try it."

ENTERTAINMENTS

Table of entertainment listings including cinema, theatre, and other events.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "سكوا من الأمل"

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Time... 6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Elaine Scott... 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55 regional news...

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain, presented by Anna Diamond and Henry Kelly... 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55 regional news...



Julie Christie in Fahrenheit 451, on Channel 4, 10.00pm

CHOICE

for the price of a week's pay... THE PIPER (BBC 2, 8.10pm) which puts us in the mood for Taylor's haunting documentary...

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines... 9.30 For Schools: celebrations for Portugal's history in relation to the country's explorers, crafts and agriculture...

BBC 2

8.55 Open University: Psychology - Happy Landings... 9.00 Ceefax... 9.30 Daytime on Two: Science - seeds and plants...

CHANNEL 4

2.15 Their Lordships' House, A comedy about the day's proceedings in the House of Lords... 2.30 Laughing '86 starring Nancy Carroll and Fredric March...

Radio 4

On long wave, VHF variations at end of programme... 5.55 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers...

Radio 4

On long wave, VHF variations at end of programme... 5.55 Shipping 6.00 News Briefing... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers...

Peter Davalle

6.00 News: Financial Report... 6.30 First Night Impressions... 7.00 News... 7.05 The Archers...

Radio 2

On medium wave, VHF at end of Radio 1... News on the hour... 6.00am-6.30am, 7.30am and 8.30am Sports Desk...

Radio 1

On medium wave, VHF variations at end of Radio 1... News on the hour from 6.00am-6.30am... 6.30am-7.00am News...

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newswatch 6.30 Meridian 7.00 News... 7.00am-7.30am News... 7.30am-8.00am News...

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARRACUDA HALL 01 876 8763... BARRACUDA HALL 01 876 8763... BARRACUDA HALL 01 876 8763...

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 5 855 5161 CC 240... ERICSON NATIONAL OPERA... ERICSON NATIONAL OPERA...

THEATRES

ADRIAN 01 741 7411... ALBERT 01 374 3678... ALBERT 01 374 3678...

THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY

The very best of British comic... THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY... THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY...

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY JEFFERY 5 & 20... ART GALLERIES... ART GALLERIES...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales... 11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales... 11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales...

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ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY JEFFERY 5 & 20... ART GALLERIES... ART GALLERIES...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales... 11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales... 11.55am South West 8.30-11.15 About Wales...

SPORT

The pressure intensifies

West Ham United can make certain of at least third place in the first division by beating Ipswich Town at Upton Park tonight, thus completing four successive home wins in 10 days and keeping the pressure on the two teams in front of them, Liverpool and Everton. Their manager, John Lyall, said: "It's great that we are taking it all the way to the finish."

West Ham have only one worry after Monday's hard earned win over Manchester City - Ward, an ever present this season, finished the game with a slight groin strain. Lyall admits his players are tired after a long hard season "but so are all the other teams, and when you are winning you don't notice being tired," he said.

"We have already achieved the target we set ourselves this season of finishing higher than any West Ham side has ever done before in division one which is a great credit to the lads. Now we simply have to seek to win our remaining games and hope that Liverpool and Everton slip up. Manchester City made it hard for us. They were the third side of the last four we have beaten to use a sweeper, which is a mark of respect to us." Stewart's first-half penalty separated the teams.

West Ham have beaten Ipswich away in both League and FA Cup this season, each time with an only goal scored by Cottee. Almost exactly a year ago another Cottee goal gave West Ham a 1-0 win at

Ipswich, which ended their relegation fears. Ipswich, still needing three points from their last two matches to make certain of avoiding relegation, will have no inferiority complex about tonight's match. Their manager, Bobby Ferguson, said: "We are going there to win. It would be nice to get three points because it would prevent having a nail-biting finish at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday." Ipswich have no fresh injury worries following their injury-time victory over Oxford United on Saturday. Everton's title hopes re-

Northern Ireland's World Cup squad and other football Page 30

ceived a lift yesterday when Reid and Van den Hauwe were included in the party of 15 for the match at Oxford on Saturday. They have made good progress after being injured during Saturday's goalless draw with Nottingham Forest. Harper and Richardson are added to the squad.

Oxford's Northern Ireland forward, Billy Hamilton, is recalled to face Everton. Hamilton, who is included in Ireland's World Cup squad after being troubled all season with a knee injury, takes over from the player who suffered a recurrence of a groin strain against Ipswich.

The 3-2 defeat left Oxford in deep relegation trouble and their manager, Maurice Ev-

ans, has set of a target of seven points from the remaining three home games to stay in the first division. He said: "We were killed off by two diabolical decisions by referee Tony Holbrook, which cost two goals after playing well enough to deserve a win and it will make the players more determined tomorrow. They know they cannot afford another defeat."

The League leaders, Liverpool, have an injury worry for tonight's visit to Leicester City. Johnston is suffering from a painful back which makes him a doubtful starter and he will have a late fitness test. Rush has also had treatment for a back injury but is likely to play.

The Liverpool player-manager, Kenny Dalglish, takes a squad of 15 with Walsh, Lee and McMahon added to the dozen who were on duty Saturday's 4-0 defeat of Birmingham City.

Leicester's manager, Gordon Milne, says that tonight's match is as important as a cup final. The former England winger, Laurie Cunningham, is likely to play, as Leicester attempt to avoid relegation. Cunningham will probably take over from Lynex, who is suspended.

Smith is still doubtful. He has been under intensive treatment for 10 days for a knee injury and Milne said yesterday: "I am keeping my fingers crossed, but will not be able to say whether Smith will be in until the very last minute."

Luton card plan to ban visiting fans

Luton Town yesterday unveiled their plans to ban spectators of visiting clubs from Kenilworth Road next season.

All supporters who want to watch Luton's games will first have to buy a membership card costing £1. The cards, incorporating a magnetic code, will have to be passed through a security scanner in a computer-controlled turnstile system.

The equipment is costing Luton £250,000 and David Evans, the club's chairman, said at a press conference that the scheme has the backing of the Prime Minister, the government, police, local councils and residents. Luton first considered banning away supporters after Millwall fans caused £25,000 worth of damage in and around the ground during a FA Cup tie last season.

They already ban visiting supporters from all seated areas and chief executive John Smith said that the club would ask the Football Association and the Football League to allow the ban to operate in cup-ties as well as League games. An existing FA rule

states that visiting clubs should be given 25 per cent of the capacity for cup-ties, but a request will be made at an FA meeting on May 13 to grant Luton exemption from that regulation.

Smith said that if the rule was not waived for Luton, they would decide whether to play FA and League Cup ties on opponents' or neutral grounds, or withdraw from the cup competitions. Under the computerized turnstile system, the turnstile will reject any card which is stolen or reported as being blacklisted by the club.

Luton hope to sell up to 30,000 tickets to home supporters and believe that more local people will go to their first division matches once they know there cannot be trouble involving rival supporters. Those who buy the cards will also be asked to sign a promise of good behaviour.

Luton have an average of 1,000 visiting fans per month, despite a deliberate policy of charging high admission charges for them. The club says that by banning away supporters, its police bills can be reduced.

Argentina going for a rout

Oslo (Reuters) - Argentina take on Norway today anxious to find their goal touch and quash suggestions that their manager, Carlos Bilardo, has assembled a defensive squad for next month's World Cup.

He has been criticised for switching the emphasis from the sweeping, attacking moves employed by his predecessor, Cesar Luis Menotti, which took Argentina to victory in the 1978 finals.

Bilardo wants his team to rout Norway in today's match at the Ullevaal Stadium to make amends for the recent 2-0 defeat by France and prove his side is no more defensive than in previous years. The Argentinians, with their captain Diego Maradona due in from Italy, rehearsed the full range of their attacking moves during a hard training session. They should have no problem disposing of the Norwegians, although the mixture of local amateurs and exiled professionals caused a major upset last year by beating World Cup holders Italy.

Argentina travel to Israel for another warm-up match

Davis break clears the way

There are few better ways to start a quarter-final of the Embassy Snooker Championship at Sheffield than by making a splendid clearance break of 134. This work of art was accomplished yesterday by Steve Davis against Jimmy White to surpass the previous highest break of 121 compiled by White himself.

On his third visit to the table, having already scored four points, Davis cut a short red into a side pocket at the top of the table. There was little indication then of what was in store - a total of 14 reds, eleven blacks, one pink, two blues and all the colours, despatched readily with super control.

White, who conceded the second frame on the brown, decided it was time to do something and he responded with a sparkling break of 84, only to run into trouble in the next frame after making a break of 41. Having escaped from a snooker on the yellow he found there was an in-off at the end of it and Davis won

the frame to go 3-1 ahead. He returned from the interval to increase his lead to 4-1 but White was back in the match at 5-3 and there should be a few more thrills before it is completed tonight.

Tony Knowles, maintaining the fluency he had acquired against Silvino Francisco on Monday night, gained early ascendancy over Kirk Stevens of Canada. Successive breaks of 48, 46 and 55 took Knowles into a 3-0 lead, but an attractive break of 74 by Stevens enabled him to cut the lead to 3-1. Knowles increased his lead to 4-1 though Stevens came back sharply with a break of 54 to reduce the lead to 4-2.

Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, became stronger and stronger once he found his rhythm against Willie Thorne and built himself a fortress in the form of a 6-2 lead. The Canadian won the first three frames without trouble, establishing a lead of 4-1 with a clearance of 36, and extended it to 6-1 with a break of 70.

Thorne's best effort was a clearance of 83 in the fourth frame and he gained some respectability by reducing the lead to 6-2 with a break of 46.

Terry Griffiths, usually a slow starter, lost the first three frames to Joe Johnson, of Bradford, but kept in touch at the end of the morning's play by reducing Johnson's lead to 5-3.

QUARTER-FINALS: J. Johnson (Eng) leads T. Griffiths (Wales) 5-3 (75-56, 133-0, 77-26, 16-52, 5-89, 89-7, 75-0, 6-70); C. Thorburn (Can) leads W. Thorne (Eng) 6-2 (73-6, 85-10, 65-1, 39-83, 111-33, 80-2, 80-32, 0-56); S. Davis (Eng) leads J. White (Eng) 4-2 (138-0, 61-28, 11-84, 66-41, 82-0, 59-75); A. Knowles (Eng) leads K. Stevens (Can) 5-3 (82-35, 73-53, 44-78, 63-53, 27-5, 62, 122-1).

MONDAY'S SECOND ROUND: A. Knowles (Eng) beat S. Francisco (SA) 13-10 (24-76, 24-26, 39-70, 2-83, 39-81, 50-28, 22-114, 66-20, 25, 79, 88-35, 85-59, 25-71, 101-25, 84, 82-73, 65-33, 53-64, 79-34, 37-59, 62-1, 72-58, 76-34, 80-12); C. Thorburn (Can) beat R. Hughes (Ire) 13-6 (76-48, 70-58, 15, 106, 73-53, 51-76, 83-22, 118-15, 24-87, 78-34, 38-81, 76-18, 13-74, 72-21, 39-72, 114-8, 62-33, 81-26, 124-0, 87-14).

EVENING RACING RESULTS

Folkestone
Going good
6.15 (11 of 11) 1. Topcall (A Carroll) 2.1 fav; 2. Innet (R 21); 3. Salora (R 19-1); 7.1; 5.10 ran. D White. Total: 22.70. £1.10. £1.50. £2.00. £2.50. £3.00. £3.50. £4.00. £4.50. £5.00. £5.50. £6.00. £6.50. £7.00. £7.50. £8.00. £8.50. £9.00. £9.50. £10.00. £10.50. £11.00. £11.50. £12.00. £12.50. £13.00. £13.50. £14.00. £14.50. £15.00. £15.50. £16.00. £16.50. £17.00. £17.50. £18.00. £18.50. £19.00. £19.50. £20.00. £20.50. £21.00. £21.50. £22.00. £22.50. £23.00. £23.50. £24.00. £24.50. £25.00. £25.50. £26.00. £26.50. £27.00. £27.50. £28.00. £28.50. £29.00. £29.50. £30.00. £30.50. £31.00. £31.50. £32.00. £32.50. £33.00. £33.50. £34.00. £34.50. £35.00. £35.50. £36.00. £36.50. £37.00. £37.50. £38.00. £38.50. £39.00. £39.50. £40.00. £40.50. £41.00. £41.50. £42.00. £42.50. £43.00. £43.50. £44.00. £44.50. £45.00. £45.50. £46.00. £46.50. £47.00. £47.50. £48.00. £48.50. £49.00. £49.50. £50.00. £50.50. £51.00. £51.50. £52.00. £52.50. £53.00. £53.50. £54.00. £54.50. £55.00. £55.50. £56.00. £56.50. £57.00. £57.50. £58.00. £58.50. £59.00. £59.50. £60.00. £60.50. £61.00. £61.50. £62.00. £62.50. £63.00. 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